

Moving Your Web Site • Palm Pilot Connectivity

Southern California's Computer Magazine

February 27, 1998 • #176

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The Home Office  
Deduction, 1998

## Updating The Small Office





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Your local PC components distributor and manufacturer of custom computer systems.

## TOUCH LITE System

Desk Top Case  
200Mhz Pentium® processor with  
MMX technology  
32MB Ram  
1.44 Floppy Drive  
3.2GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive  
Video 4MB/ VRAM  
56K bps Modem  
32X IDE CD-ROM Drive  
16-bit Sound Card  
104-key keyboard  
Microsoft Windows 95  
2-button Serial Mouse  
15" Digital Monitor

## TOUCH System

Mini Tower Case  
266Mhz Pentium®II processor  
32MB Ram  
1.44 Floppy Drive  
4.3GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive  
Video 4MB/ VRAM  
56K bps Modem  
32X IDE CD-ROM Drive  
16-bit Sound Card  
Ergonomic 104-key keyboard  
Microsoft Windows 95  
Internet Mouse 3-button  
15" Digital Monitor  
Touch Video Conference Kit

## TOUCH PRO System

Mini Tower Case  
300Mhz Pentium®II processor  
64MB Ram  
6.4GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive  
AGP Video/ 4 MB SGRAM  
56K bps Modem  
32X IDE CD-ROM Drive  
16-bit Sound Card  
Ergonomic 104-key keyboard  
Microsoft Windows 95/ Microsoft  
NT Work Station 4.0  
Internet Mouse 3-button  
17" Digital Monitor  
Touch Video Conference Kit

## Touch Enterprise System

### Server Solutions for the enterprise of all sizes

The Internet, intranets and extranets have changed all the rules. Access to information is a 24x7 proposition. Today, even small and medium size companies need the power, scalability, reliability and fault-tolerance once reserved for big data centers. Supercom's Touch Enterprise Series won't let you and your data down.

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- Reliability and Fault-Tolerance
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- Let Supercom Build an Enterprise Server Solution for You



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## Rated #1 in PC Digest

"The Sceptre Soundx 5500 Notebook is the fastest system in the review..."



"Sceptre takes top honors with the Sceptre Soundx 5500, which leaves all the other notebooks in its tracks when running NSTL's gauntlet of performance benchmarks. This is a very fast desktop replacement with a 233-MHz Pentium<sup>®</sup> processor, a 13.3-inch XGA display, and a roomy 3GB hard disk drive for storing large multimedia files."

*NSTL PC Digest*, September 1997

## Best Buy - PC Portables

"The Sceptre Soundx 4500 is an impressive machine..."



"Sceptre is selling this computer [166 MHz Pentium<sup>®</sup> processor with MMX<sup>™</sup> Technology, 12.1-inch TFT SVGA display, 2.1 GB HDD] with 40 MB of RAM... for just under \$3,400, which puts well within the reach of many. This configuration... deserves our "Best Buy" rating for the value represented."

*PC Portables*, November 1997

In head to head comparisons against the likes of Compaq, Hewlett-Packard, Gateway 2000, Micron and Hitachi, to name a few, Sceptre's Soundx notebooks have proven themselves the best. Call now for a distributor near you or check out our web-site for more information.



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- 32KB INTERNAL, 100KB PIPELINE BURST L2 CACHE
- 32BIT GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR WITH 2MB EDO VRAM
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- TOUCH PAD TOUCHPAD KEY WINDOWS IS KEYBOARD
- 1MB WAVE TABLE CHIP WITH FULL DUPLEX SOUND
- 386 SUPERHOUND WITH SPEAKERS AND MIC COMBINED
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- 1 SERIAL, PARALLEL, CMT, PS/2, MIC-IN & LINE-OUT
- LITHIUM ION BATTERY, AC/DC CHARGE, CARRYING CASE
- 56Kbps PCMCIA FAX MODEM INCLUDED

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### WINBEST-323

- INTEL 233 MMX PENTIUM PROCESSOR (UPGRADEABLE TO 233 MHz)
- BUILD-IN 20X X-SPEED CD-ROM
- 12.1" SVGA ACTIVE MATRIX COLOR DISPLAY
- 64 BIT SVGA MODERN VIDEO (2 MB EDO RAM)
- REMOVABLE 2.1 GB HARD DISK
- BUILD-IN 3.5" 1.44MB FLOPPY DRIVE
- 32 MB 100 SPEED EDO RAM (UPGRADEABLE 128 MB RAM)
- 55.4K PCMCIA FAX MODEM
- 512KB L2 PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- BUILD-IN TOUCH PAD
- UNIVERAL STEREO AUDIO, LINE-IN, LINE-OUT
- BUILD-IN TWO SPEAKERS & MICROPHONE
- HIGH SPEED 100MB UART SERIAL PORT
- SUPPORT USB/DOCKING PORTS
- 1 PARALLEL PORT, EXTERNAL CMT, KEYBOARD, MATH PORT
- ONE FAST IRDA PORT, ONE INFRARED MOUSE PORT
- SUPPORT SOFTWARE MPFS FUNCTION
- NICKEL METAL HYDRIDE BATTERY
- 2 TYPE II OR 1 TYPE III PCMCIA SLOT
- CAN ADAPTER & CARRYING CASE
- UNIVERSAL AC ADAPTER 110/220V
- WINDOWS 95 KEYBOARD

**\$2,395.<sup>00</sup>**

### WINBEST-916

- INTEL 166 MMX PENTIUM PROCESSOR (UPGRADEABLE TO 233 MHz)
- BUILD-IN 20X X-SPEED CD-ROM
- 12.1" SVGA DUAL-SCAN COLOR DISPLAY
- 64 BIT SVGA MODERN VIDEO (2 MB EDO RAM)
- REMOVABLE 2.1 GB HARD DISK
- BUILD-IN 3.5" 1.44MB FLOPPY DRIVE
- 16 MB 100-SPEED EDO RAM (UPGRADEABLE 128 MB RAM)
- 33.4K PCMCIA FAX MODEM
- 512KB L2 PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- BUILD-IN TOUCH PAD
- UNIVERAL STEREO AUDIO, LINE-IN, LINE-OUT
- BUILD-IN TWO SPEAKERS & MICROPHONE
- HIGH SPEED 100MB UART SERIAL PORT
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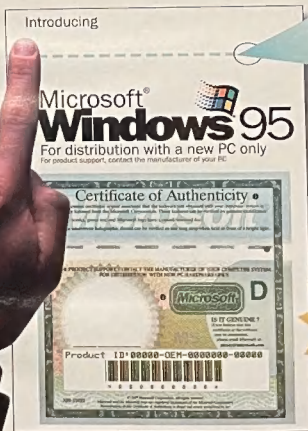
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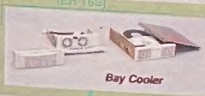
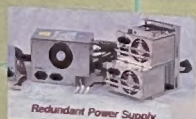


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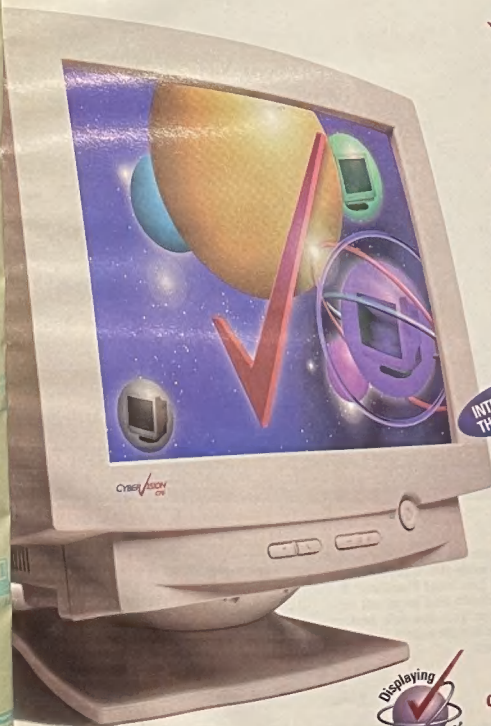
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Feature	C40	C50	C60	C70	C80	C90
Screen Size	14" (12.1" viewable)	15" (13" viewable)	17" (15.1" viewable)	17" (15.1" viewable)	19" (17" viewable)	19" (17" viewable)
Dot Pitch	0.28mm	0.28mm	0.28mm	0.28mm	0.28mm	0.28mm
Maximum Resolution	1024x768	1280x1024	1280x1024	1280x1024	1280x1024	1280x1024
Refresh Rate/Horizontal Sync	60Hz/31.5kHz	60Hz/31.5kHz	60Hz/31.5kHz	60Hz/31.5kHz	60Hz/31.5kHz	60Hz/31.5kHz
Horizontal Scan Frequency	30 kHz	30 kHz	30 kHz	30 kHz	30 kHz	30 kHz
Vertical Scan Frequency	60 Hz	60 Hz	60 Hz	60 Hz	60 Hz	60 Hz
Display Type	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plug and Play	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Low Radiation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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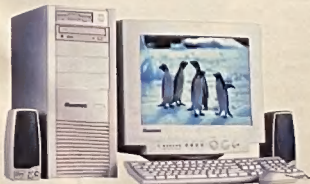


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# TSL PUTS YOUR PC SYSTEM ON FULL SPEED



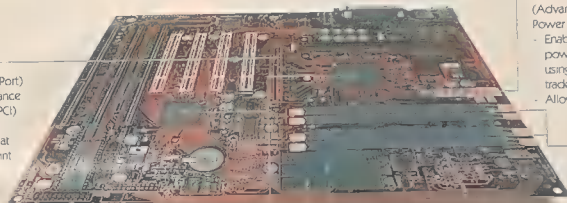
## Micro-Star MOTHERBOARD PENTIUM II LX CHIP MS-6111 up to 300 Mhz



### AGP

(Accelerated Graphics Port)

- Enables high performance (4 times than original PCI) graphics capabilities, especially 3D, on PCs at Main Stream price point



### OnNow / ACPI

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### BGA DESIGN (Ball Grid Array)

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- Ball area can be reduced significantly by this new package compared to the QFP way

### ULTRA DMA/33

(Direct Memory Access)

- Increasing the overall system performance by letting CPU free from performing data transfer in a multi-task environment, so it can fully concentrate on calculation



## Micro-Star Super Value Package

(All new Intel® 430TX and 440LX motherboards are included)

### Value <1>

Trion® Ultra DMA/33 Driver

- Double performance for new type Hard Drive

### Value <2>

Symantec® Norton Anti-Virus 2.0 for Window 95

- Excellent virus-checking capabilities plus an easy-to-use interface to protect your system from the most devious viruses

### Value <3>

LANDesk Client Manager

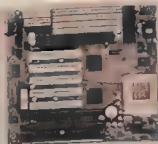
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### MS-5153

Intel® 430TX (ATX)

- Support all the CPU in the market
- Vibra 16 optional
- LM 78 on board



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Intel® 430TX (AT)

- Support all the CPU in the market
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### Chassis

- Supports standard 1U/2U/3U/4U/5U/6U/7U/8U/9U/10U/11U/12U/13U/14U/15U/16U/17U/18U/19U/20U/21U/22U/23U/24U/25U/26U/27U/28U/29U/30U/31U/32U/33U/34U/35U/36U/37U/38U/39U/40U/41U/42U/43U/44U/45U/46U/47U/48U/49U/50U/51U/52U/53U/54U/55U/56U/57U/58U/59U/60U/61U/62U/63U/64U/65U/66U/67U/68U/69U/70U/71U/72U/73U/74U/75U/76U/77U/78U/79U/80U/81U/82U/83U/84U/85U/86U/87U/88U/89U/90U/91U/92U/93U/94U/95U/96U/97U/98U/99U/100U/101U/102U/103U/104U/105U/106U/107U/108U/109U/110U/111U/112U/113U/114U/115U/116U/117U/118U/119U/120U/121U/122U/123U/124U/125U/126U/127U/128U/129U/130U/131U/132U/133U/134U/135U/136U/137U/138U/139U/140U/141U/142U/143U/144U/145U/146U/147U/148U/149U/150U/151U/152U/153U/154U/155U/156U/157U/158U/159U/160U/161U/162U/163U/164U/165U/166U/167U/168U/169U/170U/171U/172U/173U/174U/175U/176U/177U/178U/179U/180U/181U/182U/183U/184U/185U/186U/187U/188U/189U/190U/191U/192U/193U/194U/195U/196U/197U/198U/199U/200U/201U/202U/203U/204U/205U/206U/207U/208U/209U/210U/211U/212U/213U/214U/215U/216U/217U/218U/219U/220U/221U/222U/223U/224U/225U/226U/227U/228U/229U/230U/231U/232U/233U/234U/235U/236U/237U/238U/239U/240U/241U/242U/243U/244U/245U/246U/247U/248U/249U/250U/251U/252U/253U/254U/255U/256U/257U/258U/259U/260U/261U/262U/263U/264U/265U/266U/267U/268U/269U/270U/271U/272U/273U/274U/275U/276U/277U/278U/279U/280U/281U/282U/283U/284U/285U/286U/287U/288U/289U/290U/291U/292U/293U/294U/295U/296U/297U/298U/299U/300U/301U/302U/303U/304U/305U/306U/307U/308U/309U/310U/311U/312U/313U/314U/315U/316U/317U/318U/319U/320U/321U/322U/323U/324U/325U/326U/327U/328U/329U/330U/331U/332U/333U/334U/335U/336U/337U/338U/339U/340U/341U/342U/343U/344U/345U/346U/347U/348U/349U/350U/351U/352U/353U/354U/355U/356U/357U/358U/359U/360U/361U/362U/363U/364U/365U/366U/367U/368U/369U/370U/371U/372U/373U/374U/375U/376U/377U/378U/379U/380U/381U/382U/383U/384U/385U/386U/387U/388U/389U/390U/391U/392U/393U/394U/395U/396U/397U/398U/399U/400U/401U/402U/403U/404U/405U/406U/407U/408U/409U/410U/411U/412U/413U/414U/415U/416U/417U/418U/419U/420U/421U/422U/423U/424U/425U/426U/427U/428U/429U/430U/431U/432U/433U/434U/435U/436U/437U/438U/439U/440U/441U/442U/443U/444U/445U/446U/447U/448U/449U/450U/451U/452U/453U/454U/455U/456U/457U/458U/459U/460U/461U/462U/463U/464U/465U/466U/467U/468U/469U/470U/471U/472U/473U/474U/475U/476U/477U/478U/479U/480U/481U/482U/483U/484U/485U/486U/487U/488U/489U/490U/491U/492U/493U/494U/495U/496U/497U/498U/499U/500U/501U/502U/503U/504U/505U/506U/507U/508U/509U/510U/511U/512U/513U/514U/515U/516U/517U/518U/519U/520U/521U/522U/523U/524U/525U/526U/527U/528U/529U/530U/531U/532U/533U/534U/535U/536U/537U/538U/539U/540U/541U/542U/543U/544U/545U/546U/547U/548U/549U/550U/551U/552U/553U/554U/555U/556U/557U/558U/559U/560U/561U/562U/563U/564U/565U/566U/567U/568U/569U/570U/571U/572U/573U/574U/575U/576U/577U/578U/579U/580U/581U/582U/583U/584U/585U/586U/587U/588U/589U/590U/591U/592U/593U/594U/595U/596U/597U/598U/599U/600U/601U/602U/603U/604U/605U/606U/607U/608U/609U/610U/611U/612U/613U/614U/615U/616U/617U/618U/619U/620U/621U/622U/623U/624U/625U/626U/627U/628U/629U/630U/631U/632U/633U/634U/635U/636U/637U/638U/639U/640U/641U/642U/643U/644U/645U/646U/647U/648U/649U/650U/651U/652U/653U/654U/655U/656U/657U/658U/659U/660U/661U/662U/663U/664U/665U/666U/667U/668U/669U/670U/671U/672U/673U/674U/675U/676U/677U/678U/679U/680U/681U/682U/683U/684U/685U/686U/687U/688U/689U/690U/691U/692U/693U/694U/695U/696U/697U/698U/699U/700U/701U/702U/703U/704U/705U/706U/707U/708U/709U/710U/711U/712U/713U/714U/715U/716U/717U/718U/719U/720U/721U/722U/723U/724U/725U/726U/727U/728U/729U/730U/731U/732U/733U/734U/735U/736U/737U/738U/739U/740U/741U/742U/743U/744U/745U/746U/747U/748U/749U/750U/751U/752U/753U/754U/755U/756U/757U/758U/759U/760U/761U/762U/763U/764U/765U/766U/767U/768U/769U/770U/771U/772U/773U/774U/775U/776U/777U/778U/779U/780U/781U/782U/783U/784U/785U/786U/787U/788U/789U/790U/791U/792U/793U/794U/795U/796U/797U/798U/799U/800U/801U/802U/803U/804U/805U/806U/807U/808U/809U/810U/811U/812U/813U/814U/815U/816U/817U/818U/819U/820U/821U/822U/823U/824U/825U/826U/827U/828U/829U/830U/831U/832U/833U/834U/835U/836U/837U/838U/839U/840U/841U/842U/843U/844U/845U/846U/847U/848U/849U/850U/851U/852U/853U/854U/855U/856U/857U/858U/859U/860U/861U/862U/863U/864U/865U/866U/867U/868U/869U/870U/871U/872U/873U/874U/875U/876U/877U/878U/879U/880U/881U/882U/883U/884U/885U/886U/887U/888U/889U/890U/891U/892U/893U/894U/895U/896U/897U/898U/899U/900U/901U/902U/903U/904U/905U/906U/907U/908U/909U/910U/911U/912U/913U/914U/915U/916U/917U/918U/919U/920U/921U/922U/923U/924U/925U/926U/927U/928U/929U/930U/931U/932U/933U/934U/935U/936U/937U/938U/939U/940U/941U/942U/943U/944U/945U/946U/947U/948U/949U/950U/951U/952U/953U/954U/955U/956U/957U/958U/959U/960U/961U/962U/963U/964U/965U/966U/967U/968U/969U/970U/971U/972U/973U/974U/975U/976U/977U/978U/979U/980U/981U/982U/983U/984U/985U/986U/987U/988U/989U/990U/991U/992U/993U/994U/995U/996U/997U/998U/999U/1000U/1001U/1002U/1003U/1004U/1005U/1006U/1007U/1008U/1009U/1010U/1011U/1012U/1013U/1014U/1015U/1016U/1017U/1018U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# Birth of a Windows Microprocessor.

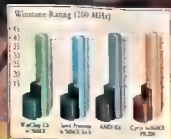


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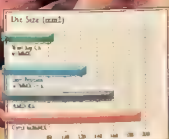


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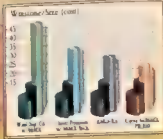
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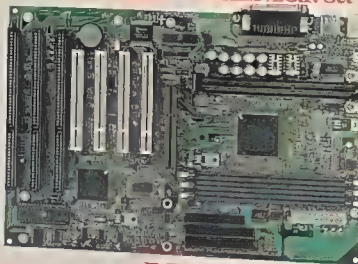
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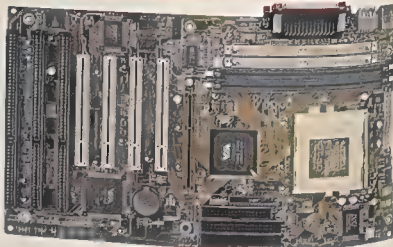
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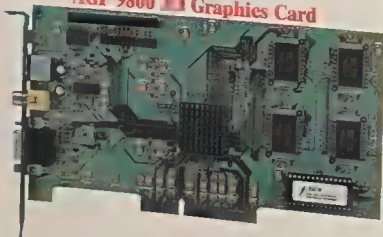
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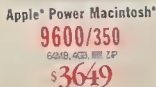
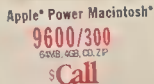
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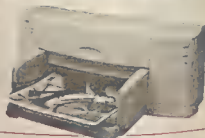
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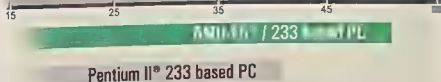
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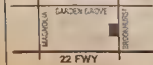
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BY PAUL HOFFMAN

## Industry Insights

### Arrogance Will Cost Microsoft In The Long Run—A Lesson From The Tobacco Industry

#### Microsoft's recent

spate of arrogance is already starting to show that the company will have to deal with a loss of stature in the coming years.

To be sure, Microsoft's nastiness with the government, its customers, and its competitors is likely to have any short-term effect its balance sheet. However, the "no one matters except us" attitude that they have been putting out to the public will come back to haunt them in the coming years.

The PC industry has a notoriously short memory span, but Microsoft's recent acts will last much longer than they might have because they ended up on the front page of every major newspaper and on television news shows. As little as two years ago, Bill Gates was portrayed as

a brilliant nerd who became rich by being smart; now he and his top executives are portrayed as bullies who think they're above everyone else.

The long-term consequences of this kind of reputation can be seen in other industries where once-powerful titans are now shunned. The tobacco industry is a classic example of this. They spent much time bullying Congress and the courts, even smokers turning against them. In the same way, Microsoft's primary customers, computer manufacturers and computer users, have an uneasy feeling about the company and are starting to look around for serious alternatives. The fact that they are finding none is a reflection on Microsoft's monopolistic tendencies.

#### Short Term Face-Saving

As explained in earlier columns, the US Justice Department filed an antitrust action against Microsoft late last year for the way Microsoft bundled Internet Explorer (IE) with Windows 95. The federal judge in that case ordered Microsoft to separate IE from Windows 95 in their offerings to PC manufacturers who include Windows on their systems.

Microsoft's response to the judge was so offensive that it took even ardent Microsoft supporters by surprise. Microsoft offered two alternatives: a horribly outdated version of Windows 95, and one that didn't boot up. Microsoft said they had no other alternatives because you can't uninstall IE without breaking Windows. When the judge showed them that he could do easily, using commands in Windows 95,

Microsoft walked off in a huff and indicated that he didn't understand.

How bad was it? The judge, when faced with Microsoft's absurd response to his simple demand, asked a Microsoft VP, "It seemed absolutely clear to you that I entered an order that required that you distribute a product that would not work. That's what you're telling me?" The VP replied, "In plain English, yes." The tone of the exchange, and of much of Microsoft's interactions with its customers, is "If you don't believe what we believe, you are clearly wrong."

Just before the judge was supposed to make a final ruling on the contempt charge, Microsoft made an agreement with the Justice Department that it would in fact do what was requested, which was to allow PC makers to remove parts of IE from the computers they shipped, and to remove the IE icon from the Windows 95 desktop. This action only avoids the contempt charge, not the whole antitrust action.

PC makers are dancing in the streets, however. Many of them already had signed long-term contracts with Microsoft that compel them to keep shipping IE 4 on the desktop. Netscape's announcement that it has started giving away Communicator for free and is encouraging PC makers to put it on the desktop of their computers, forces PC makers to think twice about which Web browser they want to emphasize in Windows 95. And, of course, Microsoft will be watching what PC makers do now, and that will probably have an effect on the prices that will be offered for future Microsoft products.

continued on page 27



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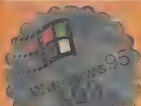
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MicroTimes • February 27, 1998

### Locking Customers Out Of Directories

If the IE debacle was the only example of Microsoft's arrogance towards its customers, it could probably be chalked up to temporary insanity or over-exuberance in the new Internet market (these two are often indistinguishable). However, at the same time Microsoft was making a minor concession in the antitrust case, it started out on a new frontier of telling its users that they could not use the products of another manufacturer, in this case Novell.

A bit of background: Microsoft is not going to deliver its long-awaited solution for full-featured corporate directories until Windows NT 5.0 comes out much later this year. Novell released its directory services software, NDS, for NT servers in January. Many current customers of Novell were eager for NDS running on NT because it gave them stable, robust directories running on NT.

Microsoft has a long-running battle with Novell for networking customers and decided to make a policy that would directly hurt its customers: it would not support any NT system that was running NDS. The Microsoft Web site said: "NDS for NT makes significant changes to the operating system. As a result, Microsoft today announced that it can not support Windows NT Server running Novell's NDS for NT."

Because of Novell's high standing in the PC market, this got a great deal of publicity in the computer trade press, coincidentally at the same time as Microsoft was posturing in the antitrust trial. Later that week, Microsoft backed down a bit from its anti-NDS stance.

In doing so, Microsoft was less than fully honest about the situation. It removed its previous page saying that NDS would hurt NT, and replaced it with one that said, among other things:

"Recently, there have been a lot of questions regarding Microsoft's support for ■ Windows NT Server customers who deploy NDS for NT from Novell. Microsoft is committed to providing support for our customers. Any customer that uses NDS for NT can expect full support for Windows NT Server code from Microsoft."

Microsoft didn't say anything about the earlier refusal to support NDS, and certainly didn't apologize for its earlier stance or the technical mistakes it had made in the earlier missive.

### Loss Of Branding

Like most manufacturing companies, ■ of Microsoft's biggest assets is its brand name. Having that brand name associated with bullies and monopolists will certainly diminish the value of the brand, but over a long period. The

cigarette companies have faced the ■ problem: how do you get more customers when people view you as dishonest and antagonistic ■ your government?

Much of Microsoft's success is based on ubiquitous branding. Microsoft doesn't make

*continued on page 28*

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## Views

### Industry Insights continued

any money off of Internet Explorer: it's free software. What they do make from it is a good feeling from some of their customers. This is a combination of being thankful that IE is free (since Netscape used to charge for their software) or happy that it has so many great features (if you aren't aware that Netscape has most of the same features). Now, the brand of Internet Explorer is associated with strong-arm tactics.

Netscape, Microsoft's main competitor in the Web market, is quite familiar with the value of branding. Over the years, Netscape's name has been tightly associated with Web browsers, and its browser is still more heavily used than Microsoft's. However, with its market share slipping, Netscape decided that it should just give away its browser and forgo the revenue it got from browser sales. In return, Netscape expects that it will gain more market share, and thus higher value to the Netscape brand.

Outside the US, there is a love-hate relationship with large American companies like Microsoft. While some people marvel at how rich the owners of these companies can get, others revile the companies when they act arrogantly. Much of Microsoft's revenues come from international sales, and Microsoft is more vulnerable to negative public opinion around the world than at home. The antitrust case, which could have easily been settled by Microsoft before it began, has gotten world-wide interest and has helped people in other countries see the darker side of Microsoft.

### Down The Road

Although Microsoft seems invincible currently, many other now-defunct monopolies have as well. It's one thing to own a whole market, and another to act as if your customers don't count.

Remember, it was the PC makers, who brought Microsoft a large part of its income, who initially complained about Microsoft's refusal to let them take IE off the desktop and add Netscape's browser instead. Microsoft's insistence, based on a desire for more exposure for IE, resulted in their being sued by the federal government—and then unsnapping the judge in the case.

This is not the kind of thing a mature company should be doing to its customers. Although the prospects of competitors to Windows 95 are not great this year, Microsoft's actions have helped cultivate a desire for computer makers not have to bundle Microsoft products with every system they sell. To be sure, they will do so as long as their customers demand it, but you are sure that more of them will be looking for non-Microsoft alternatives in the next few years unless Microsoft makes a clear and sustained change in attitude—something that few people expect.

However, it is not impossible for Microsoft to make the needed change. It has started to turn around a bit, and it can certainly make a complete change and become more civil.

This isn't to say that they shouldn't compete like hell in the marketplace, but that they could so in a way that in fact helps their customers instead of harming them. Further, they might even choose to become role models for people in their relationships with the judicial system instead of trying to look like hostile thugs.

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**Industry Insights** *continued from page 28*

## MICROTIMES STOCK INDEX

# JETS HIGHER

[illegible]

The national indices turned in strong results last month after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan commented that inflation **is** still tame. "Right now, it looks like the market is saying Asia is going to have an impact, but it's not a disaster. Interest rates **are** good, and what's going on **in** the White House **is** not too terrible, at least so far," said Arun Kumar, senior U.S. equities strategist **at** Lehman Brothers.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was spurred ■ by Greenspan's comments, ■ ■ soared 332.56 points, or 4.27%, to close the month ending February 1 ■ 8117.25. The S&P eclipsed the 1000 level for the first time in its history, as it closed ■ 1003.53, up 4.76% for the month.

The MicroTimes Stock Index moved sharply higher on the strong performances of companies such as Digital Equipment and Dell. Our index jumped 9.20% higher, or 332.56 points, to close the monthly trading period at 11808.05. In our Index, advancers outpaced decliners by 27-to-9 count, and ten companies reached annual highs versus only 3 that fell to a 52-week low.

### Turning To Stocks In The Accompanying Table

The merger of Compaq Computer Corp. and Digital Equipment Corp. ■ likely to increase the competitive pressures at home and abroad. The deal creates a \$38 billion giant company with leading positions ■ Europe in key markets like personal computers, Windows NT servers and services; its gains may come at the expense of local companies, analysts said. "I don't think this means life ■ for them," said Andreas Wahl, of Credit Lyonnais. Last month both Compaq and Digital Equipment matched their stock price move higher. Shares of Compaq rose 20.39%, or \$5.94 per share, to close at \$35.06. Shares of Digital skyrocketed 61.67%, or \$21.33 per share, ■ close at \$60.63.

Dell Computer Corp. boss Michael Dell conceded last month that the merger of Compaq Computer Corp. and Digital Equipment Corp. would make life more challenging. But he told a news conference his rivals' move would do little to diminish ■■ his plans to hit the sector's number one slot soon. "My prediction ■■ that ■■ Dell continued to grow at ■■ current rate, and its competitors continued to grow at their current rates, we would be number one by the year 2000," he said. Dell's stock price also moved higher last month, climbing ■■ a new annual high of \$107.00 per share, up 17.10%.

NetScape Communications stock resumed climbing from a 12-month low on continuing speculation that the Internet software company is in talks to acquire or part of itself. Shares of the company rose 23.16%, or \$4.13 per share, to close at \$21.94. Rumors that NetScape Communications is talks with America Online Inc., Sun Microsystems Inc., Oracle Corp., and International Business Machines Corp.

—Ryan Reichenbach  
Production Manager  
Nordby International Inc.

Source: Nordby International Inc. (<http://www.nordby.com>), Boulder, CO. This information is based on sources believed to be reliable, and while every effort is made to ensure its accuracy, the publisher and author assume no responsibility for errors or omissions.

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BY DAVID KLINE

# Memo To Bill

A Few Words Of Friendly Advice

## Dear Bill,

It must be galling to have the Feds win that temporary injunction barring Microsoft from bundling the Internet Explorer browser with your Windows operating system. After all, it's been you more than anyone who has helped build a high-tech industry for America that is the envy of the world.

But get over it, Bill! What's done is done, and unless you're willing to compromise here, you could end up jeopardizing much of what you've built over the last 22 years.

I understand your frustration, of course. The Department of Justice may claim that Internet Explorer is separate and different from your Windows operating system and can't be bundled together without violating anti-trust laws. But, hey, these are the ■■■■ guys who can't even tell the difference between legitimate fundraising and videotaped influence peddling ■■■ the White House!

What's ■■■■, I'd bet that even many of your competitors would agree that Internet browsing is an inevitable enhancement to ■■■ PC-operating system. After all, since the dawn of personal computing ■■■ years ago, operating systems have continually evolved and gained new features ■■■ capabilities.

Can anyone imagine buying a computer today, either ■■■ of your Windows machines or ■■■ Apple Macintosh, without the built-in memory management, disk-drive maintenance, printer support or diagnostic capabilities that once ■■■ sold only as third-party add-ons? Or does anyone believe for a moment that your competitors, especially Sun Microsystems and Netscape Communications, don't also incorporate new features into their

software that once were sold only by third-parties and rivals?

Of course not. But face it, ■■■. In today's anti-Microsoft climate, that fact and \$50 million will barely buy you ■■■ 40,000-square-foot house, right?

So it's time to look at the big picture and recognize that what you're facing in the DOJ suit is not some legal hair-splitting over what constitutes an operating system, but a political problem arising from the growing public perception of Microsoft's arrogance and abuse of power. Unless you deal with that, you could wind up witnessing the government breakup of Microsoft.

I know you don't want that. After all, the little company you started long ago is today the unchallenged king of personal computing. Plus, you also happen to be the richest human being on the planet. (Just between us, Bill, you're so rich that if you saw ■■■ \$1,000 bill ■■■ the street it wouldn't be worth your time to take half a second to pick it up because you earn \$2,800 per second. Which also means, of course, that you ■■■ pay off Attorney General Janis Reno's \$1 million per day fine in slightly less than ■■■ minutes!) Not bad for a college dropout, eh, Bill?

Consider what's at stake: Do you want to risk Microsoft's core business over 55 obscure little words? Do you (or any of us, for that matter) want to see the federal government decide what, exactly, constitutes a computer operating system, an Internet application ■■■ any other technological issue that it knows exactly zero about?

I don't ■■■■. So here's what you should do:

- Cut ■■■ deal with the DOJ wherein it agrees that Internet Explorer is ■■■ "optional" compo-

nent of the Windows operating system, and you agree that computer vendors and resellers may, if they or their customers wish, delete it from the desktop screens and use Netscape's Internet browser instead.

- Stop your muscleman, VP Steve Ballmer, from leaning on vendors (such as Compaq Computer and Gateway 2000) that want to sell some Windows PCs with your browser and some without. This is America, remember?

- In fact, lighten up on the hardball tactics, period.

- Sure, being tough ■■■ business is ■■■ American as Horatio Alger, and people admired that when you were the David battling IBM's Goliath. But now you're the Goliath, and most folks expect you to show ■■■ more magnanimous and statesman-like approach toward your competitors, who have public sympathy on their side because they are the underdogs.

- Finally, it's time for you to give more back ■■■ the country that provided the freedom and opportunity that made your enormous success possible. How about ■■■ few billion bucks for a national skills-retraining program that could help the millions of hard-working Americans affected by downsizing (thanks partially to your software) prepare for 21st century jobs? C'mon, you'll hardly miss it.

In short, Bill, it's time to take off the brass knuckles and "go legit," to paraphrase Don Corleone of Godfather fame. You've already conquered the high-tech world. Now, with a little more wisdom and humility, you could actually lead it as well. ■

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It's time to look at the big picture and recognize that what you're facing in the DOJ suit is not some legal hair-splitting over what constitutes an operating system, but a political problem arising from the growing public perception of Microsoft's arrogance and abuse of power.

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LAPTOPS • BY ED KAHN

## The Growth Of Larger Monitors

The ViewSonic 17" G773 Meets The Highest Standards—  
At An Affordable Price

**For the** past couple of years, I have been very satisfied using a 15" monitor with my laptop in my primary work area. However, as the prices have dropped, many people are turning to 17" models. Not too long ago, a monitor this large was simply too expensive for many users. But now, you can find some of these brands for as little as \$400. I shy away from the least expensive models in monitors. While this makes my initial investment a little higher, I know that the monitor typically lasts for considerably longer than the computer itself. It is that the computers wear out, but rather that they become "outdated" new software and hardware pushes them towards obsolescence every couple of years.

Nearly ten years ago, for instance, I bought a top of the line Sony monitor. I changed only a couple years ago because I wanted to get higher resolution and a larger screen. My friend still has the display.

What prompted me to upgrade again was also the desire for a larger monitor. And, indeed, I do love the added size. Not only is it easier for me to see what I am doing, but it is also easier for someone to view when they are looking at my shoulder. Before, it was nearly impossible for both people to see the display unless they were fairly close to the screen. Now, work is easy and more comfortable to see from a greater distance.

For almost any reason, if you are buying a



**In addition to energy conservation, the G773 meets the highest standards for low radiation, safety, ergonomics, and recycling.**

monitor, I suggest that you give serious consideration to getting a 17" model. While there are a number of good brands on the market, I like the ViewSonic G773—it has the features I want at an affordable price.

The screen itself is clear, due in part to the

26mm dot pitch. The smaller the dot pitch number, the finer the image. Many of the less expensive monitors feature a 28mm dot pitch. While they give clear displays, it is worth the extra money to get the finer definition—especially if you work with graphics. The G773 handles resolutions all the way up to 1280 x 1024. For most of the work I do, this is unnecessary, but it lets me see icons large enough on the desktop and a beautifully clear text on the screen. Glare is reduced by the screen treatment applied at the factory.

There are a number of additional things to like about this monitor besides the image itself. First, it is easy to adjust. There are five buttons on the front of the monitor. One, set apart from the others, is the power switch. The other four buttons let you adjust horizontal size and positioning, vertical size and positioning, trapezoid/tilt, and a number of other settings. Once you have adjusted the monitor, you probably will not have to touch the controls again until you change your settings in Windows 95 or connect the monitor to a different computer.

New monitors, including the ViewSonic G773, typically comply with the EPA Star Energy standards for energy efficiency. This monitor automatically implements two energy saving stages. The first reduces energy consumption from 110W to 15W. In this mode, the monitor display turns

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## Laptops continued from page 38

off, but springs back to life when you hit a key or touch the mouse. It takes only a few seconds to recover. In the next stage of power conservation, the wattage goes down to eight and the power light turns orange. Recovery from this mode takes nearly as long as when you turn the monitor on from scratch.

In addition to energy conservation, the G773 meets the highest standards for low radiation, safety, ergonomics, and recycling. As we learn more and more about the environmental problems created by old, discarded computers, I

have become increasingly concerned that computer components will be recycled.

Connecting the monitor was simple unplugging my old one and putting this one in its place. To formally install the monitor, however, you have to tell Windows 95 to look for a different monitor. Because this is a new model, Windows 95 did not have this monitor on its list of choices. The monitor includes a disk that was supposed to contain the new driver. Unfortunately, the disk did not contain the right files and I had to phone ViewSonic's tech sup-

port. They corrected the situation by sending me the file by email. They also assured me that future shipments would include an updated disk. Truthfully, I did not notice a significant difference in the display with the correct driver, but it is always better to have the right software.

ViewSonic provides a three-year warranty. I am delighted with this new, larger monitor. While I reviewed the ViewSonic G773 on a Windows system, it can also work with Power Macs.

continued on page 43

**As we learn more and more about the environmental problems created by old, discarded computers, I have become increasingly concerned that computer components can be recycled.**

## RESOURCES:

**ViewSonic G773 Monitor, \$549**

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Laptops continued from page 42

# Computer Of The Month

Commax SmartBook I-1100

**The smaller** display size is one of the major limitations of portable computers. While the quality of these displays have greatly improved over the years, and fine when you are on-the-go, they leave something to be desired if you're working on them for extended time.

The latest laptop from Commax Technologies, the SmartBook I-1100, offers a 14.1" display. This rivals the largest on the market. While this is still smaller than what I would recommend for a CRT display, it is not that much smaller than what many people still have on their desk. The LCD on the SmartBook is crisp and clear, making it good enough to work for hours with no eye strain. Even though you can always attach an external monitor, the built-in LCD is XVGA and supports up to 1024 x 768 resolution.

The display, however, is just one of the many appealing features of this system. It is fast and powerful. While the computer I tested came with a Pentium running at 233MHz with MMX, Commax makes a variety of configurations of this basic model. The exciting systems with the Intel Tillamook Pentium processor, which runs longer and generates less heat because of the low power consumption of the CPU. It is not more expensive than the system I tested, but in short supply when Commax put my system together. Like so many of the manufacturers, Commax builds its computers as they need.

The SmartBook I-1100 is little larger than a laptop with a smaller display, but is still easy to transport. Its overall measurements are 12.4" x 10.2" x 2.2" and weighs 11 lbs. It comes standard with 16MB of memory, but will accommodate up to 128MB of RAM. The system I tested with 64MB. A choice of

hard drives are available, but my system came with a 3GB hard drive—the largest they offer.

It ships with a removable floppy drive, making a number of options available. A second lithium-ion battery (\$180) is available for the bay. The bay can also hold a Zip drive module (\$235) or any of several other storage options. The SmartBook comes with a 20X CD-ROM drive and the company plans to introduce a DVD drive shortly.

The keyboard layout is pretty standard for a laptop this size. As you know, I prefer a good stand-alone keyboard when that is an option. I recently saw an acceptable keyboard advertised for under \$10. With good keyboards so inexpensive, there is no need to make any compromise in this area except when you're on-the-go. The pointing device on the SmartBook is a touchpad. I am not wild about this one, but it is acceptable.

There are two PC Card slots on the side of the computer, one of which supports Zoomed Video for smooth video display. I especially like that the slots will hold a Type III card as well as a Type II card at the same time. This means you can use a PC Card hard drive and a modem or network card at the same time. You can use an internal modem, but most still prefer a PC Card modem because they are easier to install and upgrade.

The SmartBook I-1100 offers a 14.1" display. While this is still smaller than what I would recommend for a CRT display, it is not that much smaller than what many people still have on their desk.



The audio system is Sound Blaster-compatible and includes built-in microphone and speakers. If you desire, you can connect external speakers and a microphone. There is also a line-in jack.

There is one USB port. While these devices are not common yet, they will soon hit the market and Windows will support these ports. We can look forward to modems, scanners, printers, mice and lots of other peripherals coming with USB plugs.

The SmartBook I-1100 comes with a good carrying case and is pre-loaded with Windows. It also comes with a one-year warranty for parts and labor. Commax also offers an extended warranty.

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## RESOURCES:

SmartBook I-1100, \$4,199

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MICROTRENDS • FEBRUARY 27, 1998 47

PALMPILLOT • BY DOUGLAS J. NAKAKIHARA

# PalmPilot Connectivity

Mail, Web, And Fax Without Your PC

**One of** the PalmPilot Professional's most intriguing capabilities from my standpoint was remotely sending and receiving email. Unfortunately, the software that comes with the PalmPilot relies completely on your desktop email application to actually send and receive mail. Thus, you are still anchored to your PC.

Fortunately, third-party applications, like Smartcode Software's HandStamp Pro, fill the gap and allow you to remotely handle your email. What's more, Smartcode also has Web browser and fax applications to free you from your desktop, so

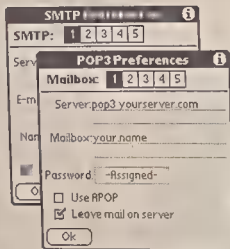
## Getting Started

First off, if you need a one-megabyte PalmPilot, either the Professional version or with a memory upgrade. You'll also need the PalmPilot modem attachment or the serial cable to connect to an external PC modem. However, the modem attachment is really the only logical choice since the whole idea is to free yourself from your desktop.

The PalmPilot comes with its own networking software which you need to configure before you do anything else. It's really no more difficult than setting up a normal PC email application.

First, you need to set your ISP user name, password, telephone number, type, address, etc.—the things you'd need to set for Internet Explorer or Netscape. (Note: Proprietary ones such as MSN or AOL don't work.) In fact, you should get the required information by looking at your Internet settings on your PC, assuming you already have things functioning properly there.

You can use the PalmPilot's Integrated Net-



*HandStamp's great to send a quick note off without going through the annoying task of booting up my entire system just to send a single message.*

work setting screen directly from HandStamp Pro, or you can take the long route through the standard Prefs application.

Once the network settings are completed, you need to specify your POP3 and SMTP servers. You may elect to leave the message files on the server, which I recommend you do. For example, I get a lot of large email with attachments where I might not want to read the message. Leaving those on the server allows me to go back later and get the attachments on my desktop PC. I also get a lot of HTML-formatted mail, which is supported by HandStamp.

HandStamp Pro has the capacity to define up to five different configurations called "mailboxes," which is great if you use multiple mail servers. You may also enter signature text. This can be automatically applied to the end of all mail or you may manually specify whether or not the signature is added.

## Filters

HandStamp Pro's Filters provide a way to handle email based on defined criteria. Surprisingly, this offers a pretty rich implementation. You can look for certain text in the sender, subject, to, and cc: parts of a message, and specify whether the text is contained in the field, or begins or ends with it. You may also set up filters based on the size of the message.

Filters can be used to either filter out certain messages or route them to particular folders. HandStamp Pro features an Inbox, Outbox, Draft, and Sent folder, as well as eight user-definable folders to store and organize your messages. If you have multiple mailboxes set up, you may specify which one the filter applies to. You can also use this feature to individually toggle filters on and off without permanently deleting them. There is a global option to use or not use filters when you retrieve mail as well.

Since you can define multiple filters, you can also prioritize them if a message meets the criteria of more than one filter. This allows you to set which filter should have precedence over another.

## Mail Handling

When you retrieve mail, HandStamp Pro will automatically dial up your ISP, log you on, and get your mail in the interactive mode only. The headers of the messages are downloaded initially. Then, based on the sender, subject, and size





# Business Solutions

## PalmPilot continued

you can select which messages you want to download in their entirety.

The program supports unique message IDs. If not for this feature, the same message would be retrieved multiple times if it was left on the server. A feature that's missing in other PalmPilot email applications I've seen is the ability to individually delete messages from the server.

HandStamp Pro will handle messages up to 50K. Messages larger than this are simply truncated, although the program will let you know when this happens.

When preparing a message to be sent, you can either input the email addresses manually or look them up in the PalmPilot's integrated address book. This caused me to add email entries to my address database. It would be nice if there were some way to either support, say, Internet Explorer or Netscape address books, although I guess the PalmPilot's limited storage space might make this difficult.

When you are finished composing your mes-

sage, you place it in the Outbox. All messages in the Outbox are automatically sent the next time you execute the Send All or Send a Receive command. If you want to save your message for editing at a later time, you can store it in the Draft folder.

## Web Browsing

With only a four-color display, Web browsing on the PalmPilot might seem like a pretty silly idea. However, I found that not so be the case at all.

Even though HandWeb strips images and much of the formatting out of the Web site, you can still access valuable information. For example, I've used it to access weather information

and movie schedules. HandWeb can also be used to download PalmPilot program (.PGB and .PDB) files.

HandWeb connects to the Internet using the PalmPilot's integrated network settings (same as HandStamp Pro) and proxy servers are supported. It supports HTML 2.0, HTTP basic authentication and automatic redirection. Support for forms is reportedly in the works.

Standard navigation controls, like forward, back, stop, and reload, are provided. Bookmarks are supported; you can organize them in categories. There is even a History category to track your browsing.

Web sites can be displayed using either

*The PalmPilot coupled with Smartcode Software applications is really what true mobile computing is all about. Leave that bulky laptop at home and just pocket your PalmPilot and clip-on modem.*



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# Solutions

## PalmPilot continued

each page. The bitmap logo is an image that will print on the cover page. The cover page can also include sender information, such as name, company, fax number, voice number, and address.

Although the bitmap logo defaults to a Smartcode Software logo, a basic drawing program (called HandPaint Surprised?) is provided that allows you to paint your own image. It would have been great if it allowed you to import a PalmPilot image. This would make it a bit easier to create something cool on your desktop PC. Drawing anything decent on a PalmPilot is an exercise in futility.

Although you still need the modem adapter or external modem to use HandFax, it will work with any Pilot, even one that doesn't have one megabyte of memory.

Since you will probably be in a hotel room or other similar locations, there are phone settings provided to add a prefix and/or suffix to the telephone number (like dialing a 9), call waiting disabling, and calling card pre-dialing.

## True Mobility

I've really enjoyed using HandStamp. It's helped me keep up with my email on the weekends and prevented me from facing a hundred-plus messages on Monday morning. It's also great to send a quick note off without going through the annoying task of booting up my entire system just to send a single message.

In that same vein, HandWeb has shown its worth, too, by allowing me to access frequently used information quickly and easily, with minimum hassle. I am sure that HandFax will end up being a lifesaver at some point when I'm on the road at a trade show or something, even if I only use it to print something out.

The PalmPilot coupled with Smartcode Software applications is

really what true mobile computing is all about. Leave that bulky laptop at home and just pocket your PalmPilot and clip-on modem. Your PalmPilot might even start helping your social life.

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BY ROYAL P. FARROS

# The Making Of An Internet Startup, Part XVII

## Venture In The Valley, Conclusion

**We've been** discussing the Silicon Valley's venture capital process, which, like any other living organism, changes and adapts to its environment. This is a rare time in venture capital history: Too much money chasing too few investments. We'll conclude our venture capital series by talking about staying sane in this crazy venture environment.

### The Bad News About High Valuations

For the first time that I can remember, entrepreneurs getting valuations that not only seem fair, but—*god*—excessive. Since business life is all about buying and selling (hopefully with a profit squeezed somewhere in between), you would think this is great news for the young startup.

It's great news, but only for those young companies that perform. If you raise venture on unrealistic expectations—and get too high a valuation—you're setting your young company up for a fall. Purchase agreements, in their infinite wisdom, plan for all eventualities, including the possibility of a distorted valuation due to "hype" factors.

What we're talking about here is the "anti-dilutive" clauses contained in all purchase agreements. The spirit of anti-dilution is simple: "Hello, I'm a venture capitalist. I'm putting money into your company. I'm getting a \$y valuation. If you tried to pull a fast one on me and value your company high—and you happen to run out of money—you better not go to other people and sell your company for less than a \$y valuation. If you do, then you automatically give more shares enough to my %."

On the surface, this sounds fair enough. But remember, if you're contemplating the

effects of the anti-dilutive measures, it means you need to raise more money and at a valuation that's lower than the previous round—a so-called "down round."

Most likely, this means your company isn't performing to expectations, whether this is missing revenue numbers or not getting the visibility that increases the basic value of your company. In other words, life probably sucks at that moment. You're probably dealing with all kinds of morale issues, in-fighting, struggling to retain key employees, and of course trying to reassure

**If you're shooting for two to three investors, you'll want four to six sincerely interested parties. Any more than this will make it look like you're "shopping the deal around," which is bad form in any league.**

your board members that you're not an idiot and that you have the situation under control.

On top of this, you now have to consider the effects of the particular anti-dilutive scheme in your signed contract.

There are different anti-dilutive schemes: The "weighted average" is the least poisonous of the bunch, but there are some—so called "full-ratchets"—that will positively rob the company blind if times get really tough. In these more poisonous schemes, it's possible to "wash out" some of your employees—that is, the venture group will get many additional shares due to anti-dilutive considerations that your employees' ownership gets reduced to rubble. If you think you had problems before, you ain't nothin' like the fury of washed employees.

The point here is that there's a "fair" price for everything. Believe me, I like to buy for as little as I can, and I like to sell for as much as I can. But raising money isn't normal buying and selling. The sales price is actually variable, something that a lot of high-flyers forget as they burn through their "cheap" venture money thinking the well will never go dry. Having the "supply and demand" advantage is wonderful, but if abused, can cause significant long term harm.

### The Good News About Alternatives

This is too easy a concept: When you're selling, it's always great to have options.

The venture community is like every other herd: It's going to follow the pack. Having a few venture folks genuinely interested in your business will raise the overall interest in your deal. This is a huge advantage. We gave one venture firm our best pitch with seemingly no results. However, once they asked who else we were working with, the effect was swift. From cold to red hot.

Be careful about going overboard with the number of people you speak with, however. If you're shooting for two to three investors, you'll want four to six sincerely interested parties. Any more than this will make it look like you're "shopping the deal around," which is bad form in any league.

(Note: You always want a minimum of two investors. Contrary to what you might think, they won't "team up" on you. Instead, you will get twice the resources, business contacts and market pull. While venture firms do talk with each other, don't forget that each has its own agenda. It's nice to be high on one firm's priority list just in case the investment space you're in loses favor with the other.)











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## Solutions

Internet Startup *continues from page 11*

### The Good And Bad News About Taking Venture Capital

This one is easy, too. When you get venture capital, you are in your way to creating a wonderful new entity in the world. At the same time, you or your business partner... or your key programmer... or the entry level person in customer service... or all of you collectively... don't mean as much as "the company" does. Your main responsibility is to your shareholders.

And don't forget that not all shareholders are created equal: In the case of a liquidation, preferred shareholders (the people that put up the money) get paid before common shareholders (the people that do the work). It's ugly but true. In a failure scenario, you—the entrepreneur—can be left with zip.

In truth, this is *exactly* the reason why your main concern should be the shareholder. You want to maximize *everyone's* value, remembering that you and everyone else in the company are still very much shareholders. You aren't working as hard as you will to avoid liquidation, rather, to realize the upside bonanza. This won't—can't—happen running your business like a "mom & pop shop." Or a charity center. Or a playground.

While all of this may make sense to you, you have to be emotionally prepared for this. Your life will change. You now have a "teacher" or "big boss" who will be evaluating you... grading you... challenging you... replacing you. You win when the company wins, even if you are no longer with the company.

If you have a problem with this concept, you better think twice about taking that VC money being thrown ☐ you. There aren't any "do-overs" at this level.

### Venture In The Valley: The Conclusion... Finally!

Whew! What was that? A ten-parter? There's only ☐ more possible tip I can give you: Raise money earlier than you want to; raise more money than you want to.

Okay, that's two tips, but they both will help you stay sane in this crazy, competitive roller coaster ride called an Internet startup! ■

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BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

BY FABIAN PASCAL

## 32-Bit Computing

Some Assembly Required: Putting It All Together

**Aside from** having to shop for all system components and technical support, a compelling reason for purchasing integrated systems from OEMs is the assembly process—even technically savvy end-users prefer not to do that themselves.

But suppose you do not want to compromise and with help from this series, will acquire best-of-breed components. Like, for example, those shown in Listing 1, chosen as the first evaluation set. I took these components to DSI, the series' integrator; based on our experience, here's what you need to pay attention to.

Assembling components into a working system seems rather straightforward:

- Attach power supply to case
- Attach CPU to motherboard
- Attach motherboard to **■**
- Attach disk and floppy drives to case
- Insert cards into slots
- Connect power supply to drives
- Connect drives to controller(s)

But the devil is in the details.

There are many system cases (or chassis) out there, ranging in price from \$35 to \$300. The choice should be governed by your specific needs and preferences, but here are some general considerations.

A major criterion for choosing a case is the number of drive bays **■** how many of them are exposed (front access). This depends on what drives you want and whether you prefer them internal, rather than external. Internal drives **■** spare and cable clutter on the outside, **■** well **■** a bit of money, but installing **■** ing them is more of a hassle.

For reasons that I will make clear in future articles, the disk subsystem should be SCSI (I

will also explain why it is a good idea to use at least two hard drives, even by keeping a slower one from an older system). Not only will this maximize performance, but a wide (16-bit) SCSI controller allows for 15 devices!

You will want **■** CD drive and, probably, **■** removable disk drive for backups (disks are faster and less fussy than tape). If you prefer internal, then together with two hard drives and the floppy drive, the case should have a minimum of five bays, at least three of which (for the floppy, CD and removable) ought, for obvious reasons, to be exposed. For expandability, get one with seven, **■** eight (high performance hard drives generate more heat and having an empty bay between them is a good idea, as is having at least **■** or two drives within the fan's air flow).

*High-performance hard drives generate more heat; having an empty bay between them is a good idea, as is having at least one or two drives within the fan's air flow.*

To back up hard drives you need large removable disk drives, such **■** the 1.5GB SyJet. For archiving and storing large files you can use the cheaper, smaller ones, such as Zip, SyQuest's EZFlyer, **■** a LS-120. The Zip is the **■** popular; the EZFlyer is larger (230MB) and faster; the LS-120, though slower, has one edge over them: it can also read **■** write regular 1.44MB floppies, saving you a bay. It's probably best to get both large **■** **■** removables (more **■** removables, including some other options in a future article).

Based on **■** experience with AT systems, the ATX form factor is, indeed, an improvement. Thus, even though my old AT system was a full-tower and the new is a mini-tower, the reduced internal cable clutter and the system board size and layout make it easier to access cards, drives, memory and CPU.

The serial, parallel (and USB) ports are on the back of ATX system boards, eliminating two internal ribbon cables and the hassle of using them to connect the ports on the face of the AT system board to the back of the case. However, for this to work, ATX cases must come with an I/O shield which fits over the port layout of your specific system board (the system can be installed and operated without the shield, but will have a gap in the back of the case, allowing dust in and affecting the internal air flow—not recommended for a high performance system).

The port layout is part of the ATX specifications, but like all industry "standards," it allows variations (in this case tens of them), so the case may arrive with the wrong shield, or even without one. Unfortunately, the system board must be taken out to add the shield later, **■** make sure to get the correct shield with the case.

Given the \$10-15 difference in price, go for a 300W ATX power supply, rather than 250W.

Note: There is a more recent set of form-factor specifications—NLX—which de-emphasizes the motherboard and uses a riser card. But while some products based on it exist, it is somewhat controversial and ATX predominates. For information on NLX, **■** Resources).

Since I will sometimes have three hard drives to test and some will rotate at 10,000RPM and run hotter, I chose the case in Listing 1 because it is a capacious ATX mini-tower with eight 5.25"





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56K w/Voice  
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Highly Compressible Fax  
Drive/Transfer (ext)  
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Cable Modem

Amstrad Smartlink 233A-4	Best Data SmartOne 33MFLA	Brook MVP3147	Cardinal SmartLink 233a	Digicom SmartLink 233AAPT	Microcom SmartLink 233A	U.S. Robotics SmartLink 233A	Zoom SmartLink 233A
11,407	11,487	11,487	11,487	11,487	11,487	11,487	11,487
11,369	6,278	6,253	6,251	6,210	6,209	11,482	11,487

## LCD Flat Panel

LT12 TFT 12.1" 800x600

Support 262K Colors  
Audio Speakers Built-in  
w/Amp/Filter

**\$890**

LT15 TFT 15.1" 1024x768

Support 262K Colors  
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## KOMODO

SCSI Color Flatbed Scanner

■ 611, 600x500dpi, A4/Letter Size  
Max. Res 9600 dpi

**\$109**



4.4

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## PROCESSORS

### intel

Pentium 166 MHz w/4MB Processor	\$109
Pentium 200 MHz w/4MB Processor	\$119
Pentium 233 MHz w/4MB Processor	\$129
Pentium 266 MHz w/4MB Processor	\$139
Pentium 300 MHz w/4MB Processor	\$149
Pentium 333 MHz w/4MB Processor	\$159

### AMD

AMD K5-700MHz	\$99
AMD K5-750MHz	\$109

### Cyrix

Cyrix 6x86/2 P1000	\$109
Cyrix 6x86/2 P1023	\$119

### HARD

#### Western Digital

2GB Caviar	\$135
2GB Caviar	\$135
2GB Caviar	\$135
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2GB Caviar	\$135

#### Quantum

2GB Ultra ATA	\$109
2GB Ultra ATA	\$119
2GB Ultra ATA	\$129
2GB Ultra ATA	\$139

#### IBM

2GB Ultra ATA	\$109
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2GB Ultra ATA	\$129
2GB Ultra ATA	\$139

#### Adaptec

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#### IBM

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2GB Ultra ATA	\$129
2GB Ultra ATA	\$139

#### IBM

2GB Ultra ATA	\$109
2GB Ultra ATA	\$119
2GB Ultra ATA	\$129
2GB Ultra ATA	\$139

## MEMORY

### 73-Pin DIMM or 72-Pin DRAM

8MB DR37500	\$109
16MB DR37500	\$119
32MB DR37500	\$129
64MB DR37500	\$139
128MB DR37500	\$149
256MB DR37500	\$159

### 80-Pin DIMM or 80-Pin DRAM

8MB DR4000	\$109
16MB DR4000	\$119
32MB DR4000	\$129
64MB DR4000	\$139
128MB DR4000	\$149
256MB DR4000	\$159

### 168-Pin DIMM or 168-Pin DRAM

8MB DR5000	\$109
16MB DR5000	\$119
32MB DR5000	\$129
64MB DR5000	\$139
128MB DR5000	\$149
256MB DR5000	\$159

### 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Torrance  
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## WT NET STATION

**Intel Pentium® 200 MMX CPU**

Triton II TX 16MB EDO RAM, 512K Cache  
**3.2 Ultra DMA IDE HDD, 1.44MB FDD, 64MB PCI 2MB Graphic Acc.**  
**16" Super-VGA Hi-Res 256dp**  
**SmartLink 33.6K Int Voice** 240W Speakers & Mouse, Mini Tower  
 104 Keyboard, Microsoft Win95 Released II CD

**\$1299**

## WT BEST BUY MMX

Intel Pentium® 200 MMX  
 Triton II TX, PbP BIOS, 512K Cache  
 SDRAM (10ns)  
 6.4GB Ultra-DMA IDE HDD, 1.44MB FDD  
 Diamond Pro w/4MB  
 17" SVGA-Ni 1280x1024 Monitor  
 SmartLink 56K Int. Voice Fax/Modem  
 Toshiba 24X CD-ROM, SB AWE  
 Hi-Fi 240W Speakers, Mid Tower  
 Logitech 2 Button Mouse, Keytronic Keyboard  
 Microsoft Win95 Released II CD  
 \*Optional G.E. 4yr On-Site \$149

**\$1299**

AMD K6-200 \$1359  
 AMD K6-233 \$1399  
 Intel 233 MMX \$1429

## WT THUNDER AGP

Intel 233MHz Pentium® II  
 440LX Chipset, 512K Internal Cache  
 64MB SDRAM (10ns)  
 6.4GB Ultra-DMA, 1.44MB FDD  
 \*Transfer Up To 33MB/Sec  
 Diamond Fire GL1000 AGP w/4MB  
 17" SVGA-Ni 1280x1024 Monitor  
 SmartLink Int. Voice Fax/Modem  
 Toshiba 32X CD-ROM, Speakers & Subwoofer  
 Sound Blaster AWE64 S/C  
 Logitech 2 Button Mouse, Keytronic PS2 Keyboard  
 ATX Mid Tower Case  
 Microsoft Win95 Released II CD  
 \*Optional G.E. 4yr On-Site \$199

**\$1749**

266MHz Pentium® II \$1849  
 300MHz Pentium® II \$1999  
 333MHz Pentium® II \$2199

## SALE MARCH

### EasyPhoto Scanner External



**\$79**

• Up to 1200 dpi enhanced resolution  
 • No interface bond to install

### Gold Star 78i 17" (15.7" VIS)

• 28mm  
 • 1280x1024 @ 80Hz (Hi)  
 • 1600x1280 @ 60Hz (Hi)  
 • PC & MAC Compatible



**\$339**

### Genius Net Mouse



**\$9.99**

### ioemga Zip 100MB Disk

**\$10.50**  
each

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### HEWLETT PACKARD SureStore T4i

4/8 GB INT w/Tape  
 SCSI Interface  
 30 MB/min

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 WIN & DOS, SCS



**\$329**

### Robotics

33.6 External Fax Modem  
 w/ 1 year MFG Warranty  
 original software package  
 condition, w/out box



**\$79**

## MAIN BOARD

**intel**

Anchorage w/SC & VGA 512K  
 Anchorage 440LX w/SC  
 Anchorage 440LX  
 Longlake 430TX  
 Portland P-II  
 Portland-P II w/Audio

**\$200**

**\$199**

**\$169**

**\$169**

**\$169**

**\$199**

TX97XA w/Audio

TXP4 512K

TX97XE/TX97X 512K

Triton TX97/97E 512K

P2L97 486LX

P2L97DS Dual P-II w/Ultra-Wide

**\$189**

**\$119**

**\$149**

**\$135**

**\$159**

**\$399**

### Shuttle (PCC, CE, ISO-9002 Certified)

333 Triton VX 512K & PCI, 3 ISA, 3 DIMM, 4 SIMM, AT  
 333 Triton TX 512K & PCI, 3 ISA, 3 DIMM, 4 SIMM, ATX  
 333 P-II 440LX 4 PCI, 2 ISA, 1 AGP, 4 DIMM, 4 SIMM, ATX  
 333 Triton TX 512K & PCI, 3 ISA, 3 DIMM, 4 SIMM, AT, LDCM

**\$85**

**\$88**

**\$129**

**\$109**

## PRINTER

**EPSON**

Epson Stylus 400

Epson Stylus 600

Epson Stylus 800

**\$179**

**\$229**

**\$229**

HP Desk Jet T2700

HP Desk Jet 890CXI

HP Laser Jet 6LX

HP 6P Scanner

HP 8100 Scanner

**\$319**

**\$409**

**\$379**

**\$229**

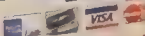
**\$729**



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 F:626-279-2468

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 F:626-799-4682

**Tarzana**  
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 F:818-758-8279

**R. Cucamonga**  
 T:909-466-1288  
 F:909-466-6229

**Fountain Valley**  
 T:714-428-0863  
 F:714-428-0860

**Hong Kong**  
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 F:852-2790-6163

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Windows 95 NT Server 4.0 TCP/IP 4.0 Networking Essentials  
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 Creating & Managing a Web Site Server



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 (909) 684-5855  
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## Business Solutions

### 32-Bit Computing *continued from page 11*

bays, which opens via a sliding side, for more convenient access. Moreover, it has a version which exposes all bays, making drive swapping easier. You can get the version exposing only four bays (first on the right), for slightly less. I also prefer casters.

For best performance in a stand-alone workstation environments, the SCSI controller and hard drives should be wide UltraSCSI (see Listing 1). CD-ROM and removable drives, however, are narrow (8-bit), so wide SCSI controllers, such as Adaptec's AH2940UW, have connectors and

*continued on page 19*

### Listing 1: Configurations Used In This Series

#### SYSTEM

SY-6K6 \$160 (direct)  
 SOYO Tek  
 (818)330-1712  
[www.soyo.com](http://www.soyo.com)

#### PROCESSOR SUBSYSTEM

Pentium III/300MHz Processor, \$720 (actual)  
 US Computers  
 (562)651-2345  
[uscomputers@csnet.com](mailto:uscomputers@csnet.com)

100/66MHz SDRAM DIMMs  
 64MB, \$249 (direct), 128MB, \$489 (direct)  
 Unger Corp.  
 (510)668-2088  
[www.ungcorp.com](http://www.ungcorp.com)

#### GRAPHICS SUBSYSTEM

FireGL 1000 Pro Graphics Adapter,  
 \$190-\$210  
 Diamond Multimedia  
 (408)325-7000  
[www.diamondmm.com](http://www.diamondmm.com)

FlexScan FX-68 21" Monitor,  
 \$2,188-\$2,633  
 Eizo-Nano Technology  
 (510)431-5011  
[www.eizo.com](http://www.eizo.com)

SCSI DISK SUBSYSTEM  
 AH2940UW Adapter, \$199-\$306  
 Adaptec Inc.  
 (408)945-8660  
[www.adaptec.com](http://www.adaptec.com)

Viking II 9GB Disk Drive, \$895 (MSRP)  
 Quantum Corp.  
 (408)894-4000  
[www.quantum.com](http://www.quantum.com)

UltraStar 92X 9GB Disk Drive, \$1,245 (MSRP)  
 IBM Storage Systems Division  
 1-800-IBM-7777  
[www.ibm.com/storage](http://www.ibm.com/storage)

SCSIVue Gold Cables  
 Internal Teflon  
 68pin 20"-12"-12"-12", \$101  
 50pin 20"-12"-12"-20", \$117  
 External Diagnostic  
 68-to-50 3', \$159  
 50-to-50 18", \$119

#### SCSIVue Gold Diagnostic Active

Terminator  
 \$6pin, \$79  
 Granite Digital  
 (510)471-6442  
[www.scsiapro.com](http://www.scsiapro.com)

#### CD-ROM & REMOVABLE DISK

UltraPlex 4-32X/CAV CD-ROM  
 UltraaSCSI Drive, \$280-\$323  
 Plextor Corp.  
 1-800-886-3935  
[www.plextor.com](http://www.plextor.com)

32jet 1.5GB Removable SCSI Disk  
 Drive, \$261-\$294  
 1.5GB Disk, \$198(3)-\$78(1)  
 SyQuest Technology  
 (510)226-4000  
[www.syquest.com](http://www.syquest.com)

SuperDisk LS-120 (IDE) Floppy Drive,  
 \$180-\$247  
 120MB Disk, \$27-\$37  
 Imation Enterprises Corp.  
 1-888-646-3456  
[www.imation.com](http://www.imation.com)

ATX Mid-Tower Case, \$171 (\$191  
 localable) (direct)  
 ATX 300W Power Supply, \$89 (direct)  
 Data Port VI Removable Drive  
 Enclosure, \$155 (direct)  
 California PC Products  
 (408)637-2250  
[www.calpc.com](http://www.calpc.com)

Data Express Removable Drive  
 Enclosures  
 DE100 (hard drives), \$207 (MSRP)  
 DE150 (removable drives) \$188 (MSRP)  
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### 32-Bit Computing *continued from page 70*


come with internal cables for both narrow and wide drives. Normally, each cable has connectors for two drives and their length (both overall and between connectors) may not fit your specific case/drives configuration. If so, well well for performance and reliability purposes, it is highly recommended to get quality SCSI cables. All this will be discussed in disk subsystem articles on, but see "The Gold Standard" sidebar below for system assembly aspects.

## When In Doubt, Let Pros Do It

Even though the assembly process is, in principle, not complicated, having it done by an experienced integrator is, nevertheless, recommended. Having assembled many different systems, they have seen it all; they're more efficient installers and better at avoiding, ■ solving problems. You surely don't want to be on your own if anything goes wrong, or you can't figure something out (while I was at DSI, a customer was having problems with his system

and a technician spent considerable time resolving them, seemed knowledgeable and was accomodating).

Examples:

• Except for CD-ROM, drives are commonly 3.5" and  only be installed in standard 5.25" bays with screw-on converters which extend their width accordingly; and mounting rails. These usually do not come with the case (except, perhaps, for the floppy drive), or with the drives. I had no extenders and rails, so DSI provided them.

- The LS-120 drive came without the front bezel and could not be installed, so DSi supplied a temporary regular floppy drive to complete the installation.

• By mistake, the case came with the wrong I/O shield; while DSI tried and could not fit one of their own, ~~an~~ integrator may well be able to in other cases (since I was on deadline, DSI kindly agreed to reinstall later; this prompted me to take a look at a case which uses only one screw, instead of the usual four, for the system

board, and also offers screwless drive installation: stay tuned).

(I would like to thank William Lam and Eddy from DSI, Karl Hehn from California PC Products, and Kaileen Noneman, Kai Hu, and Diane Noneman from Kingston Technology for their cooperation.) ■

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*Sidebar continued on page 22*

## RESOURCES:

### ATX Specifications

[www.pcguide.com/ref/mb/sys/mobo/form.htm](http://www.pcguide.com/ref/mb/sys/mobo/form.htm)

### NLX Specifications

[www.pcwebopedia.com/NLX.htm](http://www.pcwebopedia.com/NLX.htm)

[www.tejond.com/plxl](http://www.tejond.com/plxl)

### Device-Bay Specifications

[www.device-dot-org/](http://www.device-dot-org/)

## The Gold Standard

Readers of my late OS/2 column may recall that ■■■■■ earlier, slow SCSI speeds; problems due to cabling and termination ■■■■■ crippling and hard ■■■■■ figure out. At the current UltraWide transfer rates of 40MB/sec, tight adherence to the SCSI specifications by cables (length and quality) and termination has become essential.

The total length of the SCSI chain—internal and external—should not exceed 15 feet; shorter the better. The quality of the cables themselves (gauge, shielding, impedance, contacts, etc.) also affects performance and reliability; the average SCSI cable doesn't necessarily meet these quality standards—something discernible to the user only when problems occur—and problems are difficult to diagnose.

To ensure top performance and reliability for your disk subsystem and facilitate diagnostics, high quality cables and termination from SCSi specialists, Granite Digital

first, ☐ if you ☐ the external drives. If not you only need two internal cables, with which ☐ connect two hard drives (wide) and a CD-ROM and removable drive (narrow) ☐ the controller. In this configuration, ☐ controller is in the middle of the chain, between the ☐ wide and narrow sections and external drives cannot be connected to it. The last drive on each cable must be terminated.

Another option is to have both narrow drives (CD-ROM and removable) external, in which case you daisy-chain them to the controller using a 68-to-50 and a 50-to-50 external cables. The last external and internal devices must be terminated.

But what if, like me, you want the removable drive internal and the CD-ROM drive external? Well, it is possible and will even save you the cost of the 50-to-50 external cable. The internal cable to which the removable drive connects, can be extended to the back of the case, equipped with the proper 50-pin connector and brought out via one of the empty slot holes in the case, to connect the CD-ROM to the back of the case.

When you've finished on the drive configuration, establish an ID which says the drives will go then, for each internal cable, gauge the distances between the controller and the first hard drive in the SCSI chain, between the second drive and the narrow drives (including the distance between the last narrow device and the back of the case, if you go for the SCSI configuration). Arrange your external cables so that the external cables

Provide the information to Granite Digital. For common lengths they have standard cut SCSIVue Gold Teflon cables (two narrow drives cable), otherwise they will make you a custom one, priced by length and number of connectors (see Listing 1). The SCSIVue Gold Dual-Ended cables have a LED on their connector which helps diagnosing problems. If you have external drives, get also a 50pin SCSIVue Active Terminator for the last one, which is a 100pin cable with a LED.

More on SCSI cabling and termination in disk subsystem articles



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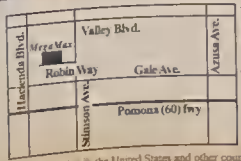
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SMALL BUSINESS IDEAS • BY BIRRELL WALSH

# Tools For Creative Writers

Plus: Babelfish And The Dubious Art Of Translation

**When the** Muse grabs you and will not let go, you're inspired poet, songwriter, or novelist.

When the Muse is out to lunch somewhere, you may need to finish a chapter or a verse and you have no inspiration at all. What to do then?

This month we look at two tools to help the creative writer. One finds the rhyme or cliché you need. The other will walk hand in hand with you through the creation of a story. Good friends indeed.

But first—a contest for word-lovers.

## The Voice Of The Fish

Thanks to a variety of online translators, you can now sort-of translate to and from most European languages. I have spent happy hours with the Babelfish translation service provided (for free, bless them) by Alta Vista.

The service will translate from English to French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish. It will also render back from any of them to English. It will even accept a URL and give you the translation of an entire web page.

I have great respect for anyone who translates from language to language. "The dangers are many; the pleasures few." The translations do give a helpful idea of what is being discussed, but the inherent ambiguities mean that translation is guesswork. Humans try to correct for the meaning drift. Computers do not know how to make this correction, so errors accumulate.

The translations are, therefore, a form of computer literature.

I asked it to interpret the sentence "Who let the fish babble?" into French. The result was, "Qui ont laissé la rumeur de poissons?"

Then I had it retranslate the French back into English. I got, "Who left the fish rumour?"

Now I took this retranslation as a round trip into Italian and back. The Italian was "Chi ha lasciato la voce dei pesci?" which was re-Englished as "Who has left the voice of the fish?"

After four transitions (from English into French, then into English, then Italian, and back to English), the result "Who has left the voice of the fish?" is only tenuously related to the original "Who let the fish babble?"

Now the contest: I am looking for the most interesting meaning-drift that can be wrung from this computer-translation service. The URL is in Resources, below. Please choose a grammatically standard English sentence of no

word "fish" means, we need to recall the expressions in which it is included.

I know no better source than Eccentric Software's product with the odd name: *A Zillion Kajillion Clichés*. I asked it to tell me the uses of the word "fish." I got a long list.

A fine kettle of fish, As cold as a dead fish, As easy as shooting fish in a barrel, Be a cold fish, Big fish in a small pond, Drink like a fish, Fish for a compliment, Fish in troubled waters, Fish or cut bait, Fish story, Have other fish to fry, He's not the only fish in the sea, Kiss the fish, Like a fish out of water, Neither fish nor fowl, Swim like a fish, There are plenty of other fish in the sea.

Most of these we know—though "kiss the

The translations do give a helpful idea of what is being discussed, but the inherent ambiguities mean that no translation is ever exact. Humans try to correct for the meaning drift. Computers do not know how to make this correction, so errors accumulate.

more than words. Translate it and from the five languages the service provides. Record the results you go along, I can reproduce them. The best meaning-drift wins, and will be published here with credit to you.

## Rhymes And Clichés For All Occasions

We always fishing for the right word, and need help. When you making a creative work, the shades of meaning arise from the usages of the word. If we want to know what the

fish" eludes me—because they are part of the idiomatic ocean in which we swim. We can allude to them and expect our readers to get the reference. If we need to fish in difficult conceptual waters, we use this net of associations to capture deep-running and elusive meanings. They help us catch our metaphorical lunch whilst the Muse is out.

The program is simple to use. You put a word into the input window, and tell the program to search. It returns the relevant common expressions it has in its database. Any cliché



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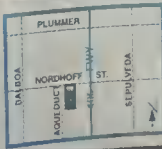
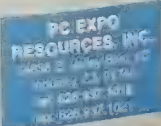
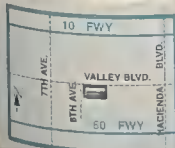


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## Small Office/Home Office *continued...*

that uses the word will be included. When the answer has come back, you can move the expressions you want into a "shortlist" of useful words and phrases, which is preserved between sessions. You can also create and edit short documents in the included text editor. All of the results can also be cut and pasted to other programs.

Robert Frost said that writing free verse was like playing tennis with the net down. If you like to rhyme your couplets, you can play with the net up by getting a copy of *A Zillion Kijillion Rhymes*. It is set up exactly like the cliché program, with the same interface and document editor. But instead of hackneyed images you get rhymes. You can, therefore, finish your limerick:

Said a Queensland-born poet named Gish,

"I once had to go out and fish

for a rhyme for Australian,

Now I've resquippedalsh,

and twenty-two more if I wish."

I mention Australians because only on that island continent would some of the answers work. The program offers "scallion" as a rhyme for "alien." It is not a match in my dialect; but my friend Tom McRae in Brisbane says that some Ozies might rhyme it.

ZK Rhymes also offered "poncho" as a rhyme for "know," a dubious proposition because an unaccented syllable does not rhyme with an accented syllable.

**Dramatica is famous in the film business.**

A friend of mine, who has written several successful screenplays, told me of producers asking if a script had been put through Dramatica before they even read it.

Fortunately, the program does let you choose the number of syllables you want in your rhyme. When I asked for all rhymes for "know," I was offered 215. When I asked for single-syllable rhymes I got 62 candidates, and they were all usable. I was not offered "chateau," which would work as a rhyme because of its accent on the ultimate syllable. The Muse will still have a job when she gets back from lunch.

The programs are available for both the Mac and Windows. Each product costs little enough that you can buy it on a lark. The bundled version is best because it lets you switch back and forth between the idiom and rhyme machines.

If you don't know if these products are for you, visit the company's Web site. They have an online demo for each product. And bookmark the site; you never know when you will be in a limerick contest and need 37 rhymes for "squid."

### Dramatica Pro

Dramatica is software for fiction writers. It helps you develop a plot and characters, based on a comprehensive theory of drama. You can begin with almost nothing, and Dramatica will help you create a whole story structure and the personae people it. Or you can take a story you have half-finished and "run it through Dramatica" to find its strengths and weaknesses.

Dramatica is famous in the film business. A friend of mine, who has written several successful screenplays, told me of producers asking if a script had been put through Dramatica before they even read it.

When you open Dramatica, you see a number of different ways to enter your story. You might begin with characters. You will be asked about them—their characteristics, attitudes, motivations, gender and role in the story. Two characters are offered immediately—the main character and the obstacle character. You can, of course, add many more. Each character will be represented by an icon, which you can import or choose from Dramatica's gallery.

Another approach is to consider the dramatic structure of the story. Dramatica has an extensive, exhaustive query system that will ask you about your story and your characters. You may begin with a dim glimmer of an idea, but Dramatica will help you to flesh it out. You can ask about both the psychological structure of

the story and the external events that manifest and shape that psychology. Every answer you give becomes part of a database about your story.

Dramatica's authors believe there are 32,768 possible story forms, based on the answers to 56 questions. The program uses your answers and its own theory of dramatic structure to close various possibilities.

At any time you can use a brainstorming button to have Dramatica answer the questions you have not yet tackled. It will give you random answers to the remaining structural questions, and provide you with a finished story model. Most people plug along on their own, and find they have created a complete story idea.

It is a lot of work to use Dramatica. If you're a fiction writer, though, it may be worth it.

I asked a couple of friends who do write fiction to examine it for me. Valerie Haynes Perry is a fiction author and freelance editor. She has completed her first novel and is working on her second one, in addition to writing short stories. Frederick Douglass Perry is a producer and director who prowls the Silicon Gulch and works around the Silicon Valley. He is currently working on a screenplay. Here are their notes.

#### Product Strengths

Valerie: The software is designed to help writers formulate their stories. However, I found it a very useful check and balance for testing my familiarity with the details of a novel that I've been working on seriously for years. The StoryGuide Pro and Query System modules helped me explore every aspect of my story and all of my characters' traits.

Fred: I am working on a screenplay based on real events. I found that the step-wise development tools in the program imposed a comforting order. I found the Q&A format helpful in developing characters as well as plot. Though I am prone to daydreaming I found that I could get lost in the details of the story instead of the next cup of latte.

Valerie: The context-sensitive Help and Theory Help are both excellent.

Fred: The Help is good, though sometimes it is like surfing the Web. You go in for one thing and begin roaming around. I would describe the help system as "environmental"—it is always there and helps create an immersive writing environment. You begin to "feel" like a writer as you would as a class on writing. It's also cheaper than burning candles and incense.



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# Buying A Computer 1998 Style

## Do Your Homework Before You Get Out Your Checkbook

By Robert Eidswick

**W**ith the after-Christmas computer sales in full swing, lots of people will decide that this is the right time to buy. If you're among them, do some homework first. If you're not aware of the reasons you need a computer, you'll end up purchasing it for the wrong reason, with unsatisfactory results.

### Mac Or Intel?

Buy the computer that does what you need. In many cases, this will be determined by the software you need to use—for example, in most publishing applications, Macs predominate; for financial services, there's more depth on the Windows side. For mainstream business applications, software is available on both platforms.

Windows-based computers are available from many vendors, and are often less expensive than Macs. You have a huge number of components to choose from—and sometimes increased compatibility problems compared to the relatively plug-and-play Macs.

The Apple Macintosh is a great computer, and is in many ways the industry, though its market share lags behind Windows-based machines. Apple seems to be recovering from its recent misfortunes: the company has shown a profit in the last quarter, and is still

making very well-built machines. Some recent Mac models include fast Windows emulation, thereby combining the best of both of them.

### System Choices— Buy What You Need

If you browse through a computer magazine, you'll find almost too many different choices.

running the latest programs out there, albeit rather slowly.

Many of the computers are not as efficient as they could be, even if they have a 200MHz Pentium processor inside. Some of the components that make the system work well might be obsolete, and essentially strangle the processor. Thus, a system based on a "super powered" Pentium II-class processor will be slower than a system with a 486 if other components introduce bottlenecks.

My recommendation is to buy from a local company, at least until you are more knowledgeable about mail order. You can deal with the owner when you find there's a problem, which is a lot easier and cheaper than playing phone tag with a distant vendor. Check some of the places that make custom-built computers in your area. You'll find several good choices, if you plan ahead—but try to get real name-brand parts.

When looking for a reliable local vendor, ask around. The PC or Macintosh users group (see listings in Resources) and check up on the vendor. A little homework will save you a lot of grief.

If you can, have a local computer consultant design the system for you, and suggest local places to have it properly built. Then you know what you're really getting. Also ask your friends about how happy they are with their systems and service.



Which is it, Mac or a PC? And what about CPU and components? Decide what you really need—and for that matter—what you really don't need.

Many companies will try to sell you to buy their highest-priced models, but in most cases, it's overkill. You probably won't need all the extras, anyway. If the machine is built right, and you plan ahead, it should run everything you want to for years to come. The system I own right now is about two years old and is

### CPU

The processor is the most important part of a computer. Apple's chips are fast, but Intel's are faster. Intel's Pentium processors are the most popular. Pentium processors are available in three versions: Pentium, Pentium Pro, and Pentium II. Pentium II is the fastest, but it's also the most expensive. Pentium Pro is the second fastest, but it's also the second most expensive. Pentium is the slowest, but it's also the least expensive. Pentium II is the best choice for most users. Pentium Pro is the best choice for users who need a lot of power. Pentium is the best choice for users who need a lot of speed.

### Com

Components are the parts that make up a computer. The most important components are the CPU, memory, and storage. The CPU is the brain of the computer. Memory is the computer's short-term storage. Storage is the computer's long-term storage. The most important components are the CPU, memory, and storage. The CPU is the brain of the computer. Memory is the computer's short-term storage. Storage is the computer's long-term storage. The most important components are the CPU, memory, and storage. The CPU is the brain of the computer. Memory is the computer's short-term storage. Storage is the computer's long-term storage.



## CPU

The processor (CPU) is the brain of the system. Apple's Macintosh is based on the PowerPC chip from Motorola; the current top of the line is the G3 series.

Intel is the CPU titan; they made the first modern 8086 chipset, and have been the industry standard-setters ever since. Only Intel can use the Pentium name because it's trademarked, presently there are two generations of Pentium, the original and the Pentium II, which is noticeably faster. However, other vendors offer "Pentium Class" or "P-Class" processors—CPUs that, while not exact copies of the Pentium, are compatible and deliver similar performance.

Three companies make "P-Class" processors: Intel, AMD-K6, and Cyrix. The AMD-K6 (PII class) is every bit as fast as Intel's PII (after some tests), and \$300 cheaper. The Cyrix chips have had compatibility and reliability problems, and to get up to speed they push the rest of the computer components beyond what they were designed for. Despite this, they are slower than the K6 or Intel versions. They are quite a bit cheaper than the AMD chips so it may prove cost-effective if you are aware of their limits. The newer ones are 233MHz, and get a pretty good price.

Get a PII-200 or 233 for home or business. Forget the 266 and 300 unless you need a graphics specialist and need the extra few points of performance these chips will provide.

## Components

Very important to buy good components. In the case of Macs, many of these components are included in the standard configuration, while Windows machines you have many vendor choices in nearly all component categories.

RAM memory is perhaps the best thing you can get for your machine—it's the working memory of the computer. More RAM is better than a faster CPU—a 166 with lots of RAM will outperform a 266 with only a little RAM. The absolute minimum: 32 Megabytes (MB) for Windows 95 (similar for Mac). Forget what they say about 16MB for more than the most basic level stuff. More is better. (You can add more RAM later in a properly built machine.)

With more, when Windows 98 comes out, you will need at least 32MB and likely 64MB. RAM is very inexpensive, so be sure to get as much as your motherboard can use, if you can afford it.

Hard disks are storage devices for all your programs and data. I prefer the Western Digital for reliability and speed, and it has a 3-

year warranty. Also I recommend Quantum, since they have a good price, and are reliable.

Get a 4 GB (gigabyte, or 4200MB) or bigger drive. They are very reasonable, and believe it or not, you'll need that much disk storage space. Windows 95 will use up to 100MB all by itself, and most major programs use 20-200MB each. The larger 4000-6400MB drives are even faster than the smaller ones. Make sure to get one with an average seek time of 10ms or less, the seek time is extremely important.

As there are different case types out there—desktop cases, mini-towers, mid-towers, and full-towers—you need to be specific when ordering. It would be to your advantage to get either the mid- or full-tower case. These accommodate more devices and hard drives when needed, and they cool better, too.

An electrical surge can severely damage a computer. These surges can come through the electrical line or the phone line and into the modem. Even if the computer is turned off, a surge through the phone line (such as lightning) can severely damage the computer. I have had this fry my machine once, and never again.

CD-ROM drives use program disks that look like compact discs; they also will play music CDs. They are fast becoming essential today, as software is starting to come on compact disc only. The standard speed in CD-ROM is now 24x or 24 speed. If you find a computer with a 16x drive, that's fine, too. However, the faster the speed of the CD-ROM, the smoother the graphics will run.

Video cards are another thing you should not scrimp on. Lousy video means things are hard to see on screen and it can give you headaches. First, you have to have a good headcard, which tells the monitor what to do. Video card, which tells the monitor what to do. Get a name brand with 2MB memory. For a good basic home system, Diamond or Matrix are both extremely good. 2MB cards at very competitive pricing. They also issue updated drivers on a regular basis. ATI is another good brand name.

If you are going to use high resolution and photo quality color, or a large monitor (17"), get the video card version with 4MB of RAM. The video card version with 4MB of RAM (a Unlike RAM in computers, extra RAM on a video card doesn't make it faster except for certain 3D cards and game usage. It is primarily used for very high resolutions and a very high number of colors.)

Monitors are measured diagonally. In general, get a 15" monitor. You'll pay \$300-350 for a decent 15" monitor. A 17" monitor is great, but the list price starts at about \$550 and goes to

\$1300. If you will be in front of the computer for four hours a day, get a 17". Remember however, whatever you says the viewing area is 1" less. Thus a 17" is really a 16", etc.

Good choices in monitors? The CTX would be my choice, followed by Hyundai, Samsung, Nokia, and Sony. A good monitor will have a 2- or 3-year warranty. Insist on it. Most of these monitors are compatible with both Windows and Macintosh.

The modem allows you to get on to the Internet, use email and talk to other computers over the phone line. Get a name brand, internal or external modem. Don't get a cheap brand, unless you want to have problems later on. Get only a 56 200 X2 compatible speed fax modem. I recommend that you get one of the following: US Robotics, Motorola, or Practical Peripherals.

Printers are available in inkjet and laser. I personally have no use for a color printout, but if you really need color, I would get a HP Deskjet. There are several models starting around \$200, but you will pay \$400 for anything good. Get at least an 870 model. Otherwise, get a laser printer, which is faster, cheaper to run, and much sharper. I like the old 24 pin printers; they're fast, and most of the time you really don't need to worry about setting them up. You can also get adaptor cables to hook these up to a Mac.

Access to the Internet is a must. You can travel anywhere, download programs, chat with people, and email around the world for the connection cost. I recommend the IBM Global Network, they are very efficient, fast, and rated highly by PC Magazine, among others. At \$19.95 unlimited, for 56K speeds, I feel that they are one of the best deals in town. They also support ISDN speeds. Their Web site is [www.ibm.net](http://www.ibm.net) for further information.

## Conclusion

A good PC or Macintosh needs a proper software setup of the software. The default setup is often wrong for your particular needs, since it is designed only to function in general situations. It will run, but not as well.

Have your friendly neighborhood computer hacker help you set it up. If you don't know anyone in that field, go to your computer club. They should be able to help you. Failing that, you can pay the bucks to have a professional set it up properly at first, and you will be in good shape for a long time to come.

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# Revisiting OCR

## Converting Paper Documents To Text Now Works Much Better

By Ivars Bezdechi

Technological improvements in office equipment such as word processors and copiers have made the transferring of information less difficult. Yet one of the biggest challenges still facing small/home-office workers and the growing legions of Americans running businesses from their homes, is how to transfer large chunks of printed or typed characters into a word processor, where the text can be manipulated and changed without spending hours laboriously "rekeying" the document.

Other than delegating the task of rekeying a document to a secretary or hiring a temp, one technological solution which has always been available in some form or another is "optical character recognition" or "OCR." While the promises of OCR over the years have been great, the final results have often been quite disappointing—software up till now has been rather expensive and somewhat clunky.

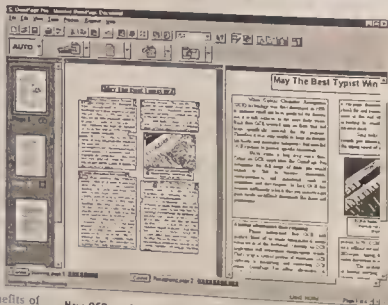
But with the advent of cheaper and faster digital desktop scanners and highly-improved software at competition-driven lower price points, small/home offices, whether utilizing PC or Macintosh-based computers, finally reap the promises and benefits of optical character recognition.

### A Brief History Of OCR

Digital desktop scanners capture the page in one way: by passing light-sensitive charge-coupled device (CCD) arrays over the illuminated surface of the page (flatbed scanners). The scanner digitizes the page by dividing it into hundreds of pixel-sized boxes per-inch representing each line as either a "zero" or a "one," depending on whether the box is filled-in or empty. This matrix of dots (called a bitmap) can be stored, displayed, print-

ed and manipulated by a computer as an image. But if this image is to be eventually utilized as text, it be editable with a word processing program, the bitmap image must be processed by an OCR program.

Optical character recognition programs such as Cacer's OmniPage and Xerox's



New OCR products like OmniPage Pro (above) are up for the challenge.

TextBridge organize the scanned patterns of dots into characters, and use a variety of techniques to make decisions as to what the characters are.

The earliest OCR programs were limited to reading just one font in one point size, and was primarily used for processing preprinted multi-form applications in the banking industry. "Multiform" machines eventually developed, capable of reading multiple character styles using a system which compared the character to a library of bitmap images. The real im-

itation of this approach, however, was that the accurate interpretation of the character was satisfactory only as long as the fonts in the library were correctly and carefully selected.

Then came the systems which read text by breaking it up and interpreting sets of lines and curves based on a system of "rules." These rules determined which character most closely matched the inputted image and processed the character. While this method worked well on clean images, it had its limitations, chiefly because the original document had to have "perfect" image quality—degraded characters and "noisy" pages would result in poorly interpreted text.

While these character recognition programs were highly touted by their publishers in the mid 1980s as "end-to-all-of-your-problems" applications, in actuality they fell terribly short in practicality and overall usefulness.

### Building A Better Mousetrap

Seeing an opportunity to build a better mouse-trap for eager public, software engineers set their sights on developing an "omnifont" (many character style) system, which could read complex pages containing a mix of different typefaces without having to be "trained" by the user.

Instead of being "rule-based," the new system utilized algorithms—or neural networks—that learn characters by being trained on character examples. The end result was an OCR system that forms the basis for current OCR programs, it's "intelligent enough" to handle fonts it had



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## UPDATING THE SMALL OFFICE

Revisiting OCR *continued from page 88*

never encountered before, a lot more accurate, and much better than other systems at dealing with degraded image quality documents.

Even more recently, the emphasis in OCR software has shifted from recognition of individual characters to recognition of individual words—which is especially helpful when the individual characters in a word are difficult to isolate and recognize (as is common on degraded document images from faxes and photocopies). The new technology enables the engine to recognize the whole word without first having to recognize individual characters.

**Small/home offices, whether utilizing PC- or Macintosh-based computers can finally reap the promises and benefits of optical character recognition.**

But in typical, everyday use, the way the software generally works is that three main algorithms (among thousands of other complicated algorithms and "experts") are employed in analyzing text. There's a "segmentation expert"—the algorithm that looks at the millions of probabilities of different dots on a page and segments them into individual characters. The "segmentation" process becomes more complicated on so-called "degraded documents" or characters printed on a colored background. A "linguistic expert"

analyzes the now-defined characters based on familiar letter combinations (the most common in the English language being a trigram of "the"). After both of these "experts" have been invoked, a "classifier expert" identifies and distinguishes what an actual character is—for example, the difference between "c" and an "e." Thousands of "experts" can be deployed in a single document, which results in what the software considers to be the "correct" interpretation of the original bitmap image of a scanned document.

According to Tim Callan, a software engineer with Caere Corporation, publishers of OmniPage Pro, a best-selling optical character program for both the PC and Macintosh (street price: \$129), incorporating the new technology in their software may not necessarily change the accuracy result for documents which can be "easily read," but will probably improve results for what he called "borderline documents"—damaged originals, faxes, newspapers and multiple generation photocopies. "If you have a document that is of very good quality, it is unlikely that OCR will make an error on it. If a year from now it is still unlikely that the accuracy rate is really going to change. The question is more about how the engine is going to treat and interpret these borderline documents."

### A Checkered Past

There is a strong realization in the OCR software industry that their not-so-great past reputation is something that they must deal with. Callan says that many computer users' impressions about the usefulness of OCR software have been drawn from the software that's often bundled with digital scanners. He says that the capabilities of this software do not match the performance of the full product.

"OmniPage Lite/OmniPage Limited Edition is the bundled version of our full-featured software and is not as accurate as our OmniPage Pro. These products have been designed to only give the user an idea of what the full-featured product does," Callan says.



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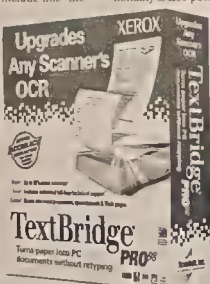
## Revisiting OCR *continued*

He adds that based on extensive consumer research, Caere did a large promotional campaign about two years ago to include this "lite" OCR software with most scanners. "With our improved engines we wanted to give users an opportunity to test OCR without having to pay any money for it, because we knew from our research that they would not. If you didn't like OCR five years ago, you certainly were not going to pay \$500 for this software now."

"We provided OmniPage Lite to the majority of scanners, which are being sold with the goal of having users once again try and reevaluate OCR and see if it has changed," Callan says. This marketing approach also allowed "entirely new group of potential users who may not have necessarily bought their

scanner for OCR use, but rather for conventional image scanning, to see what additional functionality is also possible with their scanner."

Customers using their OCR software beyond the scope of Caere's original vision are not unheard of around the offices of the Los Gatos, CA-based software publisher. The most extreme case of user ingenuity cited by Callan is the case of the user who stretched the symbol "training" feature of the software to its outer limits by training it to recognize Hebrew text. "They trained OmniPage to recognize each of the Hebrew characters and ran an entire book through OmniPage Pro with surprisingly great



Converting paper documents to electronic text is a snap with the latest OCR products like TextBridge Pro (above).

accuracy." While Callan says that this is an extreme case, people more commonly also use their pro-

gram for converting paper into electronic text for repurposing in other applications and for archival purposes by scanning a document so it can be referenced in the future in its electronic form.

What's currently being developed in the area of optical character recognition? While the more accurate interpretation of "difficult" documents remains a priority, there's also strong interest in features and capabilities outside the core of OCR technology, such as a highly intuitive graphical user interface and improved "threading" (the number of functions which can be done simultaneously, with the goal of reducing processing times). "By approaching the problem differently, we can make it into a better experience for the user, apart from questions about making OCR more accurate," Callan says.

"OCR is a technology which will always be improving, because we get better and better at it, we just get into more and more difficult documents. And if you consider it from a human level, we don't even read documents perfectly, but we can always do it better." Copyright © 1998 by Ivars Bezdechi. All rights reserved.

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## Talking To Your Computer *continued from page 34*

tion software to more advanced speech and computer control products.

Voicepad, though inexpensive, is a good start for anyone interested in this new form of computer input. Probably best suited for ■■■■■ wishing to use the technology sparingly and ■■■■■ conjunction with a mouse and keyboard, this product does have some nice features. No detailed training is needed, and you can be working with Voicepad in just a few minutes.

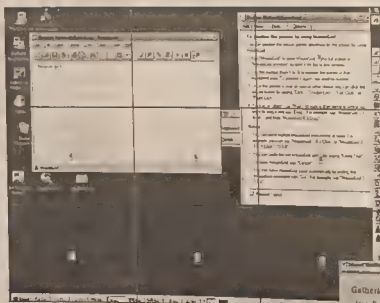
Generally this product is best for dictating short documents and email, or entering strings of numbers. All the data remains on the "voice pad" (very similar to Word Pad) and can easily be cut and pasted to your document or mail client. Another nice feature is the ability of the program to help determine the correct word when homonyms appear.

A different aspect of voice recognition appears with Voice Commands for Microsoft Word. This product is strictly an additional tool to help with the preparation of documents. Running it in conjunction with Microsoft Word, you can quickly format ■■■■■ by simply speaking a few easy ■■■■■ remember commands. Quite complex functions ranging from converting text ■■■■■ tables or moving sentences around the page can be performed ■■■■■ seconds without touching the keyboard.

Kurzweil products ■■■■■ "natural language commands," which means that straightforward sentences may be ■■■■■ perform commands. This command ■■■■■ is much ■■■■■ to ■■■■■ and remember because exact commands ■■■■■ not need to ■■■■■ "underline ■■■■■ sentence" ■■■■■ a simple command which will ■■■■■ just ■■■■■ it describes. For ■■■■■ using Microsoft Word extensively, Voice ■■■■■ be an excellent addition.

For large scale text inputting, Kurzweil has two programs which ■■■■■ used for larger applications, Voice Plus and Voice Pro. Both products ■■■■■ work with all major applications, suites ■■■■■ communication programs, integrating seamlessly within them. Though they're a little slower (running together of words ■■■■■

cause inaccuracies) than the IBM or Dragon System speech programs, they have plenty of interesting features that ■■■■■ make them useful. Something unique to these two products is the ability to select gender and age when setting up a user, giving more accurate recognition. A simple macro designer is also included.



Above: Dragon NaturallySpeaking allows you ■■■■■ control the mouse pointer through spoken commands on the mouse grid; right: The IBM Via Voice Microphone setup screen helps to set up the microphone for optimal recognition.

letting you automate the more mundane tasks with a simple spoken command.

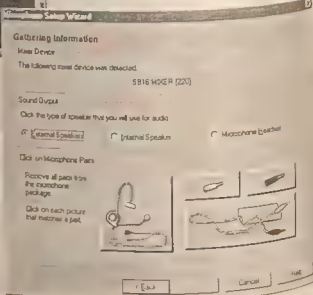
The main difference between the two, besides price, ■■■■■ dictionary size, with Voice Plus having a 30,000 active word vocabulary and Voice Pro having ■■■■■ 60,000. Program control is also available with this product, enabling you to open applications, save and print files and format text. Depending on usage, both products can fit well in a home or small office, enabling the user to quickly input data and control the computer through the use of spoken words.

As of press ■■■■■ Lernout ■■■■■ Hauspie is putting ■■■■■ finishing touches on their first continuous speech product, L & H Voice Xpress and Xpress Plus, which include many of the high end features found in the IBM and Dragon Systems products at an entry level price. Expected to be included are fast translation (100+ wpm) of spoken text or commands, customizable vocabulary and built-in text-to-speech.

## IBM Via Voice ■■■■■

IBM's speech division has put out several voice products over the years, with the latest ■■■■■ being Via Voice Gold, ■■■■■ continuous speech product which can easily achieve over 100 wpm in optimal situations. Though this program ■■■■■ be set up by calibrating the microphone and the reading three sentences, the best performance comes when you run the enrollment process, which leads you through 265 sentences to train the software for your voice. Multiple users may be set up, each with their own profile, which is nice if you have several people working on the same computer.

Though the documentation that comes with the program is rather skimpy (most is really found in the help files), the program is rather easy to use. Speech may be interpreted directly into the application, so no cutting or pasting to a word processor or email program ■■■■■ needed. Also included in the package is the IBM Voice Center, a small applet that can be used to ■■■■■



control all the functions of the computer, and ■■■■■ text-to-speech option for reading back what has been entered.

The actual speech recognition itself is excellent, and, with the ability to customize the vocabulary up to 64,000 words (with a backup dictionary of ■■■■■ words), the error potential becomes greatly reduced after using the program for a period of time. An interesting aspect to the program is the ability to "play" back the actual speech used when ■■■■■ unknown word ■■■■■ encountered. This makes it much easier to correct a text, though the amount of disk space used increases dramatically.

Overall this is a very good product and can fit nicely into small office where large amounts of data need to be entered into ■■■■■ computer.

*continued on page 37*



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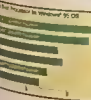
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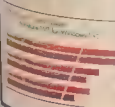
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\$299	\$439	\$599																																				
 <p><b>ASUS P2L97</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pentium III 233MHz</li> <li>New Intel 486LX AGP Chipset</li> <li>ATX Form Factor</li> <li>4x168-Pin DIMM, SDRAM, EDO, ECC</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> <li>Ultra DMA / 33, ATX Form Factor</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>233</td> <td>266</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$599</td> <td>\$559</td> <td>\$739</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>350</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$959</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$169<sup>99</sup></b></p>	233	266	300	\$599	\$559	\$739	333	350	400	\$959	N/A	N/A	 <p><b>ASUS P2L97-S</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pentium III 233MHz</li> <li>New Intel 486LX AGP Chipset</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM, SDRAM, EDO, ECC</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> <li>Ultra DMA / 33, ATX Form Factor</li> <li>Adaptec 2000 Ultra Wide SCSI</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>233</td> <td>266</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$549</td> <td>\$649</td> <td>\$829</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>350</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1049</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$259<sup>99</sup></b></p>	233	266	300	\$549	\$649	\$829	333	350	400	\$1049	N/A	N/A	 <p><b>ASUS P2L97-DS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dual Pentium III 233MHz</li> <li>New Intel 486LX AGP Chipset</li> <li>4x168-Pin DIMM, SDRAM, EDO, ECC</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> <li>Ultra DMA / 33, ATX Form Factor</li> <li>Adaptec 2000 Ultra Wide SCSI</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>233</td> <td>266</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$649</td> <td>\$749</td> <td>\$929</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>300/2</td> <td>333/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1349</td> <td>\$1039</td> <td>\$2079</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$399<sup>99</sup></b></p>	233	266	300	\$649	\$749	\$929	333	300/2	333/2	\$1349	\$1039	\$2079
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 <p><b>ASUS TX97-E</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, Chipset, 75-23MHz</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5, K6</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM &amp; 4x72-Pin SMD</li> <li>3xISA / 4xPC/133ISA / H-Speed I/O</li> <li>Dual UltraDMA / H-Speed I/O</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$139<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359	 <p><b>ASUS TX97</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, Chipset, 75-23MHz</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5, K6</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM, SDRAM, EDO, ECC</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / H-Speed I/O</li> <li>Dual UltraDMA / H-Speed I/O</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$139<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359	 <p><b>ASUS TXP4</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, Chipset, 75-23MHz</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5, K6</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM &amp; 4x72-Pin SMD</li> <li>3xISA / 4xPC/133ISA / H-Speed I/O</li> <li>Dual UltraDMA / H-Speed I/O</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$119<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359
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 <p><b>Iwill P55XUW</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, ATX Form Factor</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5, K6</li> <li>Adaptec Ultra Wide SCSI</li> <li>4x72-Pin SMD, 2x168-Pin DIMM</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$239<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359	 <p><b>Iwill P55XB2</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, Chipset, 75-23MHz</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5 &amp; K6</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM, 4x72-Pin SMD</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$119<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359	 <p><b>Iwill PII LS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel 486LX AGP Chipset</li> <li>Pentium III 233MHz</li> <li>Adaptec Ultra Wide SCSI</li> <li>Adaptec RAID/Bus Master</li> <li>4x168-Pin DIMM, 4x72-Pin SMD</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>233</td> <td>266</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$579</td> <td>\$679</td> <td>\$839</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>350</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1079</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$289<sup>99</sup></b></p>	233	266	300	\$579	\$679	\$839	333	350	400	\$1079	N/A	N/A
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 <p><b>ABIT Your Reliable Partner TX5</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, Chipset, 75-23MHz</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5, K6</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM &amp; 4x72-Pin SMD</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> <li>Dual Ultra DMA / H-Speed I/O</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$119<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359	 <p><b>ABIT Your Reliable Partner PX5</b></p> <p>512K Pipeline Burst Cache</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Triton TX, Chipset, 75-23MHz</li> <li>Pentium, MMX, 686, 82, AMD K5, K6</li> <li>2x168-Pin DIMM, 4x72-Pin SMD</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>166mm</td> <td>200mm</td> <td>233mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$259</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>\$289</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$339</td> <td>\$329</td> <td>\$359</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$99<sup>99</sup></b></p>	166mm	200mm	233mm	\$259	\$289	\$339	333	\$289	\$319	\$339	\$329	\$359	 <p><b>ABIT Your Reliable Partner LX6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pentium III 233MHz</li> <li>Intel 486LX AGP Chipset</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> <li>4x168-Pin DIMM</li> <li>4xPC/133ISA / AGP slots</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>233</td> <td>266</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$499</td> <td>\$559</td> <td>\$739</td> </tr> <tr> <td>333</td> <td>350</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$599</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>\$169<sup>99</sup></b></p>	233	266	300	\$499	\$559	\$739	333	350	400	\$599	N/A	N/A
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- Intel Triton 420X, 75-233MHz
- Pentium, MMX, 686, AMD K5, K6
- 4x72-Pin SIMM / 2x168-Pin DIMM
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- 5xPCI / 3xISA Slots
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### Titan Turbo AT-2

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- Intel Triton TX, 75-233MHz
- Pentium, MMX, 686, AMD K5, K6
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- 4xPCI / 3xISA Slots
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### Intel Triton TX

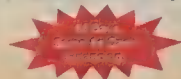
- 512K Pipeline Burst Cache
- Intel Triton 420X, 75-233MHz
- Pentium, MMX, 686, AMD K5 & K6
- 4x72-Pin SIMM, 2x168-Pin DIMM
- 4xPCI / 3xISA Slots
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- 33 MB/sec Ultra DMA
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- 9.5ms Access Time
- 512K Buffer
- 5400 RPM
- 3 Year Warranty



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- 128K Buffer
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### 6.0GB Ultra ATA

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- 11ms Access Time
- 128K Buffer
- 3 Year Warranty



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- BrightStor C50800TX-A
- 33MB/sec Ultra DMA
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- 128K Buffer
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- BrightStor Q51200 TX-A
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- 512K Buffer
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- 3 Year Warranty



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### 4.3GB UW Ultra Wide SCSI

- 8ms Access Time
- 5400 RPM
- 512K Buffer
- 40MB/Sec Transfer Rate
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- 7.5ms Access Time
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- 8ms Access Time
- 7200 RPM
- 512K Buffer
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### 24X EIDE CD-ROM

- Access Time
- Buffer
- 3.6MB/Sec Transfer
- MPC 3 compliant



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## Panasonic

### 24X SCSI-2 CD-ROM

- Access Time
- 128K Buffer
- 3.6MB/Sec Transfer
- MPC 3 compliant



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## PLEXTOR

### 32X SCSI CD-ROM

- 90ms Access
- 512K Buffer
- 4.8MB/Sec Transfer



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## CREATIVE

### PC-DVD Encore

The Creative PC-DVD Encore CD-ROM player reads DVD material at 2X speed. Features include a Dynamically-Rescaled Resolution decoder that enables you to enjoy overabundantly video on your PC! The Creative PC-DVD Encore CD-ROM Stack can contain up to 17GB of data. 2X faster than standard CD.



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## YAMAHA®

### 6x4x2

### CD-ReWriter

- Complete package includes everything you'll need to make a CD in your computer today
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- Reason Cases & Blank Media
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- 6x Read, 4x Write, 2x Rewrite

### CRW 4260tx

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- 6x Read, 4x Write, 2x Rewrite
- PC or MAC

## IRICOH®

### 6x2

### CD-ReWriter

- Handy reusability for many different applications. With the CD-RW you can directly overwrite data as many times as you want - something write-once CD-R need a control do. This means virtually limitless applications that are perfect for personal use that involves frequent reusing of data, such as data backup and producing your own CDs. Another advantage is the ability to erase data no longer needed and to reuse the disc.



**\$449<sup>99</sup>**

- 2x Write, 6x Read
- 350ms Access Time, 1MB Buffer
- SCSI-2 Interface
- Easy CD-Pro V2.1 Software
- 1 Blank CD-RW Media

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### 6x2 EIDE

### CD-ReWriter

- 2x Write, 6x Read
- 1MB Buffer
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# MULTIMEDIA



## Multimedia Kits

### 24X

- 24X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- 16-Bit Stereo Sound Card
- Microphone
- 60 Watts Stereo Speakers

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### 32X

- 32X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster AWE64 Sound Card
- Microphone
- 200 Watts Stereo Speakers

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"The Way your computer should Sound"



**YST M7M**

• 7.1 Watts per Channel  
• Active Servo Technology

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• Active Servo Technology

**System 45**

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• 25 Watt Sub-Woofers

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**\$169<sup>99</sup>**

## CREATIVE

### Sound Blaster AWE64 Gold

- The Ultimate Audio Experience
- Orchestral Quality WaveEffects
- Advanced Signal Processing
- 4MB RAM On Board

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## CREATIVE

### Sound Blaster 16 PnP

- True 16-bit CD Stereo Sound

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### YAMAHA® Chipset "The Way your computer should Sound" 3D Wavetable Sound Card

- True 3D Stereo Sound
- 100% Sound Blaster Compatible
- IDE Interface, Full Duplex

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### Super Woofer Satellite Speakers

- Bose Style Swivel Satellite Speakers
- 120W PMPO, 10W/15W RMS
- Convenient Control Panel

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6W Speakers, 20W Woofer

**ACS500**  
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**\$249<sup>99</sup>**

## CREATIVE

### Sound Blaster AWE64 Value

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- Orchestral Quality WaveEffects
- Advanced Signal Processing

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### YAMAHA® Chipset "The Way your computer should Sound" 16-Bit Stereo PnP Sound

- True 16-bit CD Stereo Sound
- 100% Sound Blaster Compatible
- IDE Interface, Full Duplex

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### PCI 3D Wavetable Sound Card

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- 3D Full Duplex

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- Magnetically Shielded
- High Efficiency
- Full Range Response

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# VIDEO CARDS

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<b>ATI</b> <b>All-in-Wonder Pro</b> 8MB RAM • Intelligent TV Tuner • 2D & 3D Graphics Acceleration • High Quality MPEG Playback • Video Capture • TV Set Display • AGP or PCI <b>\$299<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Trident</b> <b>MPEG Video Card</b> 2MB EDO RAM • Trident 9680, 1000x1200 • Highest 64-bit Performance • 3D capable per Second Video Playback <b>\$35<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Trident</b> <b>3D MPEG Video</b> Video Capture TV Output 4MB EDO RAM • Trident 9655 • 30 Frames per Second 3D Playback <b>\$59<sup>99</sup></b>
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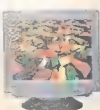


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• On-Screen Display, Plug & Play  
• One Year 48 Hours Advanced Replacement  
• 3 Year Warranty



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• Sony Trinitron 25mm  
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• 3 Year Warranty



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## MAG INNOVISION DJ-700

• 17" 1280x1024 26mm  
• New JAG OSD Control  
• One Year 48 Hours Advanced Replacement  
• 3 Year Warranty



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## MAG INNOVISION 710V2

• 17" 1280x1024 26mm  
• On-Screen Display, Plug & Play  
• One Year 48 Hours Advanced Replacement  
• 3 Year Warranty



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## MAG INNOVISION DJ-530

• 15" 1280x1024 26mm  
• On-Screen Display, Plug & Play  
• One Year 48 Hours Advanced Replacement  
• 3 Year Warranty



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## MAG INNOVISION DJ-800

• 19" 1600x1200 26mm  
• 80Hz @ 1280x1024  
• New JAG OSD Control  
• One Year 48 Hours Advanced Replacement  
• 3 Year Warranty



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## VISIONMASTER by yama Pro 17

• 17" 1280x1024 25mm  
• On-Screen Display, Plug & Play  
• One Year 48 Hours Advanced Replacement  
• 3 Year Warranty



**\$629<sup>99</sup>**

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• 17" 1280x1024 25mm  
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• 17" 1600x1200 26mm  
• 77Hz @ 1280x1024  
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• 3 Year Warranty



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15" Digital  
14" Digital  
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**\$149<sup>99</sup>**

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• On-Screen Display, Plug & Play  
• 3 Year Warranty



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• 86Hz @ 1024x768  
• On-Screen Display, Plug & Play  
• 3 Year Warranty



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- Designed to **Win** Power of Windows
- Plug & Play

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**Sportster 33.6K  
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External #839

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\$129<sup>99</sup>**

**U.S. Robotics**

**Sportster 33.6K  
Voice Fax Modem**

Internal #1171  
External #1172

**\$129<sup>99</sup>  
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**U.S. Robotics**

**Sportster 56K  
Data Fax Modem**

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- V.42bis / MNP-5 Data Compression
- V.34 11.2K Modulation Standard
- Group III Fax

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**U.S. Robotics**

**Sportster 56K  
Data Fax Modem**

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- V.42bis / MNP-5 Data Compression
- V.34 11.2K Modulation Standard
- Group III Fax

**\$149<sup>99</sup>\***

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**Sportster 56K  
Voice Fax Modem**

- USR#1785
- Full-Duplex Speaker Phone
- Remote Message
- FAX on Demand, Caller ID

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**U.S. Robotics**

**Sportster 56K  
Voice Fax Modem**

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- Remote Message
- FAX on Demand, Caller ID

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**Supra Express  
56K Modem**



**\$109<sup>99</sup>**

**33.6  
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**\$ 79<sup>99</sup>**

**3Com**

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ISA EtherLink III, Coax & 10-Base-T

**\$ 129<sup>99</sup>**

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PCI 32-Bit Combo EtherLink XL  
3-in-1, Coax / 10-Base-T / AUI

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**3C905-TX**  
PCI 32-Bit Fast EtherLink XL  
(10/100 Base) 10-Base-T

**\$ 79<sup>99</sup>**

**Office Connect 8-Port Hub**  
3C16700, 10-Base-T **\$ 139<sup>99</sup>**

**Office Connect 16-Port Hub**  
3C16702, 10-Base-T **\$ 299<sup>99</sup>**

**Office Connect 100 8-Port Hub**  
3C16722, 10/100-Base-T **\$ 499<sup>99</sup>**

**Superstack 24-Port Hub**  
3C16406, New with SNMP & Segmentation **\$ 699<sup>99</sup>**

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<b>SC 501-A</b> Mid Tower, 6 Bays, 300W, ATX	<b>\$129<sup>99</sup></b>
<b>SC 801-S/A</b> Mini Tower, 13 Bays, AT/ATX	<b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b>

Power Supply: 300W Power Supply



MouseMan Cordless	<b>\$79<sup>99</sup></b>
MouseMan II	<b>\$49<sup>99</sup></b>
Combo Mouse, Serial or PS/2	
TrackMan Marble	<b>\$79<sup>99</sup></b>
Optical Technology, Never Needs Cleaning	

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### DeskJet 890CXi

- 600x600 dpi
- 9 PPM Black, 5 PPM Color
- Size 4" x 6" to larger size

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## Microsoft<sup>®</sup>

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Mouse V2.0 Serial	<b>\$29<sup>99</sup></b>
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30-bit, Single-Pass, Color Flatbed Scanner	
Scan Maker E6 Pro	<b>\$529<sup>99</sup></b>

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### Stylus Color 400

- 720x720 dpi Photo Color & Black Text
- Prints up to 3 PPM in Black
- Prints up to 4 PPM in Color
- 2 Years Warranty

**\$189<sup>99</sup>**

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### LaserJet 6LXi

- 600x600 dpi
- 6 PPM

**\$389<sup>99</sup>**

## hp HEWLETT<sup>®</sup> PACKARD

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- 4 PPM Black, 1.5 PPM Color

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## UPDATING THE SMALL OFFICE

Talking To Your Computer *continued from page 38*

### Dragon Naturally Speaking Personal, Preferred and Deluxe

The king of the speech recognition hill, Dragon Systems puts out several versions of its Naturally Speaking software, all of which have outstanding features.

As with the Via Voice Gold program, extensive training is initially needed to set up the user. Unlike the IBM product, Naturally Speaking places text in its own window; upon completion, a couple of quick voice

The latest software can now take complete control of your computer, enabling you to open applications, print documents, manipulate files and even send off an email without touching a keyboard or mouse.

Additional words to the vocabulary may also be added quickly and easily without touching a key or moving the mouse.

The Personal edition only lets you profile ☐ user, while the Preferred and Deluxe allow multiple profiles. The Deluxe version also adds an interesting feature, the topic builder. This feature enables the user (or users) to set up different topics for the particular style of writing you're doing. An attorney topic could contain legal terms, while a business topic would contain business words. Each topic may be called up when ever it is needed.

The Deluxe version also adds a complete ☐ language and ☐ increased active vocabulary. Both the Preferred and Deluxe also include Mouse Grid, which allows the user the ability to position the mouse anywhere on the screen with simple voice commands.

Naturally Speaking Personal or Preferred are great products for home ☐ a small business, giving you the most hands-off of any voice recognition product. For someone wishing for macro languages or having a desire for multiple topics the Deluxe edition should be able ☐ handle anything ☐

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commands can copy it to another application, such as a word processor ☐ desktop publisher program. A patch is also available on the Web site to enable these programs to place text in any application, though I found it to be slightly slower when used this way.

The design of this software is excellent, with the ability to dictate text ☐ control the system completely integrated. You can be dictating text and then decide to pull up email with just a few voice commands. Full editing can be done alongside of dictation; an incorrect word or phrase ☐ be eliminated with a simple "scratch" command.

## RESOURCES:

Voice Pad \$49.95  
Voice Commands for Microsoft Word \$59.95  
Voice Plus \$99.95  
Voice Pro \$199.95

Lemout ☐ Hauspie/ Alpha Software  
www.kurzweil.com  
1-800-843-1224

Via Voice Gold \$149  
IBM Software  
www.software.ibm.com

Dragon Naturally Speaking  
Personal \$99  
Dragon Naturally Speaking  
Preferred \$169  
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- PCI Ultra DMA 33MB/sec IDE HD Controller
- ATI Xpert @Work 4MB (MPEG 30fps, CDI, AVI)
- 17" Mag DX700T .25mm, 1280x1024, Non-Interlaced.
- 2 Serial Ports, 1 Parallel Port & 1 Game Port
- 1.44MB Teac Floppy Drive
- Microsoft Keyboard with Microsoft Mouse
- 32X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster AWE 64 PnP Sound Card w/ Wave Table
- Grolier Encyclopedia 1998
- 320 Watt Hi-Fi Surround Sound Stereo Speakers
- ATX form factor Mid Tower Case (8 Bays & 230W UL PS)
- K56Flex Internal Fax/Modem w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- MS Windows 95 CD and Manual

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## Pipeline Ultima

- Intel Triton TX chipset = Pentium II 440LX chipset with AGP
- 64MB RAM with 512K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Drive
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- 2 Serial Ports, 1 Parallel Port & 1 Game Port
- 1.44MB Teac Floppy Drive
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- 32X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster AWE 64 PnP Sound Card w/ Wave Table
- Grolier Encyclopedia 1998
- 320 Watt Hi-Fi Surround Sound Stereo Speakers
- Mid (ATX Pentium II) Tower Case (8 Bays & 230W UL PS)
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- 32MB EDO RAM (Expandable to 512MB)
- 4.3GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Drive
- ATI 3D Xpression+ 4MB SGRAM (MPEG 30fps, CDI, AVI)
- 17" SVGA monitor .26mm, 1280x1024, Non-Interlaced.
- 2 Serial Ports, 1 Parallel Port & 1 Game Port
- 1.44MB Teac Floppy Drive
- 104 Key Windows 95 Keyboard with Mouse
- 24X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster 16 PnP Sound Card
- Grolier Encyclopedia 1998
- 320 Watt Hi-Fi Surround Sound Stereo Speakers
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Pentium II 233MMX	\$1389
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- PCI S3 Virge 3D SVGA card with 2MB RAM
- 15" SVGA monitor .26mm, 1280x1024, Non-Interlaced.
- 2 Serial Ports, 1 Parallel Port & 1 Game Port
- 1.44MB Teac Floppy Drive
- 104 Keys Windows Keyboard with Mouse
- 24X EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- 16 Bit Sound Card
- Grolier Encyclopedia 1998
- 320 Watt Hi-Fi Surround Sound Stereo Speakers
- Mid (ATX Pentium II) Tower Case (8 Bays & 230W UL PS)
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# Suitable Work For A Successful Telecommuter

## Quantifying The Types of Work Appropriate For Telecommuting

By Robert Moskowitz

Even the most skillful, enthusiastic, hard-working, and well-trained telecommuter will fail if the only assignments he or she receives include work that cannot reasonably be accomplished on a telecommuting basis. That's why the companion evaluation to the "Profile Of A Successful Telecommuter" (Issue # 164, May, 1997) you saw in this space last year must be an equally fair-minded evaluation of the work a candidate for telecommuting is typically asked to do.

Because their work generally can't be done while telecommuting, you won't find many surgeons or plumbers in the ranks of successful telecommuters. Receptionists and service workers are also rarities in the "work-at-home" population.

But during the past few decades of steadily continuing growth in the numbers of telecommuters, more and more people in a wide range of front-line, supervisory, mid-managerial, creative, professional, and strategic leadership positions have chalked up considerable success while performing at least some of their duties off-site.

The general rule is that you needn't forget how to get the office to become a successful telecommuter—the vast majority of telecommuters stay home to do their work only two or two and a half days per week. The rest of the time, they're in the office like their telecommuting colleagues. This "home and away" pattern is the possibility that you can "time-shift" your assignments to place the responsibilities most suitable for telecommuting on full days of work—and telecommute only on days when you do that work.

On this basis, tens of millions of people doing quite ordinary work can find a way to do it very well without physically traveling to their employer's centralized office.

To quantify the kind of work that's suitable for telecommuting within any individual's set of responsibilities, you can use the accompanying Telecommuting Work Suitability Index.

Tens of millions of people doing quite ordinary work can find a way to do it very well without physically traveling to their employer's centralized office.

Basically, it's a questionnaire you can administer to a telecommuting candidate, to yourself (if you're interested in pitching yourself as a telecommuter to your boss). From the answers, you can make a fairly accurate determination of whether or not a sufficient proportion of the job's normal work can be accomplished via telecommuting.

You can administer the questionnaire as often as there are changes in the types of work to be evaluated.

The questionnaire asks for "how many hours" you spend at various types of work. You can guess at these figures, or you can use a relatively simple but accurate "time log" form (available from the American Telecommuting Association, Washington, DC, [www.knowledge.com/dataforms.html](http://www.knowledge.com/dataforms.html)) to make a more accurate determination.

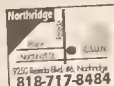
Once you have listed the hours of effort for each of these categories, review the whole lot. You might find you've listed more hours than you actually work during a typical week. That's because estimates made from memory are notoriously inaccurate. If you find this happens, you'll get better results when you review your original answers, reflect more accurately how you allocate your time to the various kinds of work you do.

After you're satisfied with your answers to this questionnaire, read on to see how to interpret your answers.

### Telecommuting Work Suitability Index

How many hours per week do you typically spend at each of the following? Feel free to add more categories if you need them. Describe the work you actually do. For each item, calculate separately the number of hours of work you must do in the centralized office (alone, and with others) and the number of hours in which you could have accomplished the work away from the office, perhaps working at home or in a telework center.

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### Interpreting Answers To The Telecommuting Work Suitability Index

The various types of work itemized in the Index are intended mainly to stimulate clearer thinking about the work one does, and whether or not it might be suitable for telecommuting. Similarly, the various columns are intended mainly to stimulate clearer thinking about how one works, and how much of one's work might be suitable for doing as a telecommuter.

There are two ways to look at the numerical totals derived from answers to the Index.

#### The Literal Interpretation

If you take an "absolute, literal" approach, you can say the total number of hours listed in the fourth answer column is exactly the amount of work there is available to do as a telecommuter. If you have listed eight hours of work, that's one full day of work to be done as a telecommuter each week. Listing sixteen hours of work would indicate two days worth of responsibilities each week that are suitable to be done as a telecommuter. And so forth.

#### The Relative Interpretation

But most people are notoriously poor estimators of how many hours they spend doing certain kinds of work. So it's often better to take a "relative, proportional" approach to interpreting these same numbers.

Under this interpretation, you calculate the number of hours listed in the third answer column to the hours listed in the fourth answer column. If both numbers are the same, or nearly the same, then half the work involved in this job is probably suitable to be done while telecommuting. If the number in the third answer column is four times larger than the number in the fourth answer column, then about twenty percent of the work at the kind of work can be done as a telecommuter.

In some cases, you'll find the number in the third answer column is twice as large as the number in the fourth answer column. These ratios indicate there's only one full day of responsibilities available for telecommuting in every two, three or four weeks of work.

The relative approach to interpreting the Telecommuting Work Suitability Index is probably more useful because it allows us to compensate for any errors made in estimating the number of hours spent at various kinds of work. Assuming these estimation errors are generally consistent, the accuracy of the evaluation will not be materially compromised.

*continued on page 102*

### Telecommuting Work Suitability Index

	Hours Of Work In Office			
	# Hours Per Week Of Work Alone	# Hours Per Week Of Work With Others	Total # Hours Per Week Of Work (In Office)	# Hours Per Week That Could Be Worked Out Of Office
<b>Mental work:</b>				
Analyzing (financials, contracts, plans, or anything else)				
Auditing (transactions, cash flows, income, expenditures, or anything else):				
Creating (proposals, ideas, solutions, written materials, or anything else):				
Updating or Improving (current projects, existing plans, future operations)				
Planning (your own work, or the work of others):				
Problem Solving (thinking about a problem or a solution.— don't include the time needed for physical travel to a location to view a problem-related situation or piece of equipment):				
Other:				
<b>Computer information work:</b>				
Entering or retrieving data:				
Crunching numbers:				
Building simulations or models:				
Running simulations or models:				
Generating e-mail or responding to e-mail:				
Other:				
<b>Other information work:</b>				
Contract preparation or revision:				
Correspondence:				
Numerical or financial calculations:				
Filing or processing forms:				
Designing (anything from graphics to architecture or fashion):				
Meetings (one on one):				
Meetings (with two or more people at a time):				
Meetings (via telephone):				
Project analysis:				
Project management (including planning, record-keeping, reporting, tracking resources and progress):				
Researching (including determining the answers to specific questions, increasing your overall knowledge, checking facts):				
Sales (face to face, or preptime):				
Contact work (including contact with customers, suppliers, shippers, and outside contractors):				
Other reading:				
Other writing:				
Other kinds of work not listed above:				
<b>Totals</b>				



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- 1/4" Super 8 film



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- 12" Color Active Matrix LCD Color Display
- 1.2 GB Hard Drive
- 4x4.8 MB Cache Data Cache
- 2 MB EDO Video Memory



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- 256 MB EDO Standard, 1 MB Max
- 12" Color Active Matrix LCD Color Display
- 1.2 GB Hard Drive
- 4x4.8 MB Cache Data Cache
- 2 MB EDO Video Memory



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### CAISSI DT 700

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- 256 MB EDO Standard, 1 MB Max
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- 1.2 GB Hard Drive
- 4x4.8 MB Cache Data Cache
- 2 MB EDO Video Memory



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### EPSON PHOTO SHOT 800

- 133 MHz Intel Pentium Processor w/386
- 256 MB EDO Standard, 1 MB Max
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- 1.2 GB Hard Drive
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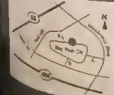
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Successful Telecommuting *continued from page 122*

Generally, you'll find that a relatively large proportion of most jobs can be done while telecommuting. But that doesn't mean all of that work should be done this way. Experienced telecommuters may be able to switch their schedules so massively without losing what's best. But for anyone new to this style of working, too much telecommuting too soon can lead to discomfort, and loss of productivity. Assuming the telecommuter involved is relatively new to this working arrangement, the best approach for most situations is to rearrange and reschedule various responsibilities to create no more than one day of telecommuting per week. Only after the individual becomes comfortable working as a telecommuter, and demonstrates ability to be fully productive away from the central office, is it prudent to add more days of telecommuting to his or her schedule.

## Biggest Obstacle To Telecommuting Shifting From Frontlines To Backroom Staffers

For years it has been believed—and I'm among those guilty of accepting and even promulgating

the idea—that one of the biggest obstacles to the expansion of telecommuting has been front-line supervisors. Large numbers of people in these positions thought to be very uncomfortable with the notion that those reporting to them might win permission to stay home and do who-knows-what instead of coming in to the

The torch of myopia and fear regarding telecommuting now appears to have been successfully passed from the front lines to the back office, where it can conceivably do more harm than ever before.

office where they can be watched and judged.

But according to the email, phone calls, and letters I've been getting recently, supervisors now far less of an obstacle than the staffers in the Human Resources department. Apparently, significant numbers of these bureaucrats are now taking the position that if they allow one

employee to telecommute, they'll have to countess others to telecommute, too, and the whole thing will get out of hand.

While it sounds like a valid objection, it doesn't hold up under direct scrutiny.

First of all, telecommuting is not a bad thing. Telecommuters tend to be more loyal and more productive, generally making it beneficial for employers if more people began telecommuting.

Secondly, I've never heard a single advocate of telecommuting seriously represent that every employee should be permitted to work this way. Obviously, certain jobs can't be done at a distance from the office. But even more to the point, certain people don't have the self-discipline, the motivation, the proven track record, or even the inclination to work from home during a portion of their work week.

In addition, I've never heard anyone suggest that telecommuting be made company policy without applying some standards and criteria, and without providing some training for those who are going to telecommute (as well as those who are going to supervise them). Well-conceived and well-written standards, criteria, and

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Successful Telecommuting continued

training will normally provide plenty of basis for keeping the telecommuting movement from turning into a stampede.

In short, the torch of myopia and fear regarding telecommuting now appears to have been successfully passed from the front lines to the back office, where it can conceivably do more harm than ever before.

While the favorable facts may be mounting up, and the tide may be turning in favor of telecommuting, there is still much more work to be done before telecommuting becomes as acceptable in the American economy as any other productive form of employment.

## Telecommuting For People With Disabilities

Anyone who wants to explore the possibilities of telecommuting as a way for disabled people to earn a good living should check out a valuable book on this topic.

*Questions and Answers About Telecommuting Regarding Persons with Disabilities* is a publication of The Independent Living Research Utilization Program, which is part of The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, in Houston, Texas.

Published by the University of Texas at Austin, it's a guide for anyone who would like to obtain solid information about how telecommuting might provide some income-producing opportunities.

The guide is based mainly on a national mail survey of approximately 500 employers, plus information developed by calling individuals and asking questions, and by extracting useful information from other publications published by potential employers and various departments of federal, state, and local governments.

It is written in a question-and-answer format, so it's fairly easy to follow. There are two versions: the first focuses mainly on information that potential employers with disabilities might want to think about before embarking on a plan to start telecommuting, the other is aimed at potential employers.

To obtain a copy of the guide, call the ILRU at (713)520-0232, or send a request by mail to: Independent Living Research Utilization Program (ILRU), Ste. 10002233, South Shepherd, Houston, TX 77019. The cost is \$5. Be sure to specify whether you want the one for potential employees or potential employers.

## Globe-Trotting Anchors Should Stay Home

Have you ever noticed how Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, and Tom Brokaw feel the need to be in front of the place where news is breaking? They all went to Cuba for the Pope's visit. Then came word of a new Bill Clinton scandal and all three immediately departed—two to Washington, DC, and one to New York City. I guess —trumps religion in the news biz.

But can't these guys pick up a telephone?

Seriously, we all know it's show business—not news gathering—that drives the network to "up anchor" and position their premiere smiling faces in front of whatever location appears relevant on any given day. But think of the anti-telecommuting message this graphic instability conveys.

If these anchors would stay at home and communicate on the air with far-flung correspondents by fax, modem, teleconference, and videoteleconference, they'd still have all the latest facts and interviewees' fingerprints without ever experiencing jet lag. Meanwhile, the rest of us might get the message that you can do your job without having to travel long distances just to put yourself on the scene.

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# Be It Ever So Humble

## Recent Tax Developments For Home Office And Home Computer Deductions

By David A. Simon, CPA and Jennifer R. Cherniss

**W**ork has been creeping ever-deeper into our home lives, and the tax man follows close behind.

The increasing ■■■ of home offices and personal computers ■■■ the home for income-producing purposes has been accompanied by evolving tax legislation and ■■■ law regarding the deductibility of their costs. As outlined here, workers have ■■■ important, but limited, victories during the past year, signaling ■■■ liberal tax policies favoring deductibility.

(Some of the legislative changes that will be discussed here have not yet taken effect. Readers ■■■ cautioned not to overlook the effective dates of new law.)

### Mi Casa Es Su Oficina

In ■■■ modest taxpayer victory, the Tax Court allowed the cost of home-based computer equipment as a deductible employee business expense. The case, *Mulne v. Commissioner* (cited at end of article), is noteworthy because it supports situations in which employees ■■■ obtain substantial tax benefits for the cost of buying their own personal computer.

Sherri Mulne worked for Pacific Bell Yellow Pages at its downtown Los Angeles offices. She also worked at home ■■■ frequently visited customers at their business sites.

In 1991, Mulne purchased ■■■ old IBM computer and printer costing \$3,689 to ■■■ home. She used the computer and printer exclusively for business purposes, to ■■■ various reports and other documents required by Pacific Bell, and to keep up with the volume of work ■■■ ed with her position as sales manager. She deducted the cost of the equipment ■■■ employee business expense on Schedule A (itemized deductions). Mulne also claimed a home office deduction ■■■ a room ■■■ her apartment.

Mulne made ■■■ "expense election" ■■■ deduct the entire \$3,689 cost of the computer ■■■ her 1991 tax return rather than slowly depreciating it

over five years. Certain types of property, however—including any computer or peripheral equipment—cannot qualify for the expense election unless the property is used for the convenience of the employer and is required as a condition of employment. Without the expense election, employees typically would derive little or ■■■ tax benefit from slowly depreciating a computer because of computational rules that restrict the annual deductibility of employee business expenses.

The Internal Revenue Service denied her deductions, arguing that Mulne failed the "convenience of employer" and "condition of employment" requirements. Under temporary IRS regulations, in order to satisfy the "condition of employment" test, the use of the property must be required in order for the employee to perform her duties properly. The employer need not explicitly require the employee to use the property. Instead, the determination of "required" depends on all the facts and circumstances of the case.

The Tax Court found that, because of her heavy caseload and the number of sales representatives she managed, it ■■■ necessary for Mulne to ■■■ a computer and printer at home. A Pacific Bell manager testified ■■■ trial that, by using computers ■■■ home, sales managers could access information ■■■ modern and generally kept up with their work load. The manager noted that only high-level management could enter the building after hours ■■■ that Mulne was not among them—so she was unable to use the office computer after business hours.

The court found that Mulne's use of the computer and printer was for the convenience of her employer and was required as a condition of employment. Accordingly, she was allowed to make the expense election and deduct the full \$3,689 cost in one year.

Passing the "convenience of employer" and "condition of employment" tests is also necessary for an employee to qualify for a home office deduction. The Tax Court disallowed Mulne's home office deduction on unrelated grounds, but noted that Pacific Bell did not require sales managers to have ■■■ home office. Pacific Bell preferred them to have ■■■ home office if it promoted time management, and enabled managers to access information to better coach their sales representatives and keep up with their own work. The court did not rule out the possibility that PacBell's preference, even without a requirement

might be sufficient to satisfy the condition of employment test.

Ironically, Mulne lost the home office deduction ■■■ the narrow grounds that she didn't do enough ■■■ home to make it her principal place of business.

The implication of *Mulne* is that employees who telecommute may stand a decent chance of deducting not only the cost of their computers but home office expenses as well. The hidden message is that sophisticated employers will carefully structure their practices so their employees ■■■ reap the tax benefits. And it did PacBell good, once they put rigorous conditions on Mulne's employment success, to stand by her in court, even though they were not compelled to do so.

**Workers have won important, but limited, victories during the past year, signaling more liberal tax policies favoring deductibility.**



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# Be It Ever So Humble

## Recent Tax Developments For Home Office And Home Computer Deductions

By David A. Simon, CPA and Jennifer R. Cherniss

**W**ork has been creeping ever-deeper into our home lives, and the tax man follows close behind.

The increasing use of home offices and personal computers in the home for income-producing purposes has been accompanied by evolving tax legislation and case law regarding the deductibility of their costs. As outlined here, workers have won important, but limited, victories during the past year, signaling more liberal policies favoring deductibility.

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### MI Casa Es MI Office

In a modest taxpayer victory, the Tax Court allowed the cost of home-based computer equipment as a deductible employee business expense. The case, *Mulne v. Commissioner* (cited at end of article), is noteworthy because it supports situations in which employees can obtain substantial tax benefits for the cost of buying their personal computer.

Sherry Mulne worked for Pacific Bell Yellow Pages at its downtown Los Angeles offices. She worked at home and frequently visited customers at their business sites.

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Mulne claimed a "expense election" to deduct the \$3,689 of the computer as her tax return rather than slowly depreciating it

over five years. Certain types of property, however—including any computer or peripheral equipment—cannot qualify for the expense election unless the property is used for the convenience of the employer and is required as a condition of employment. Without the expense election, employees typically would derive little or no tax benefit from slowly depreciating a computer because of computational rules that restrict the annual deductibility of employee business expenses.

The Internal Revenue Service denied her deductions, arguing that Mulne failed the "convenience of employer" and "condition of employment" requirements. Under temporary IRS regulations, in order to satisfy the "condition of employment" test, the use of the property must be required in order for the employee to perform her duties properly. The employer need not explicitly require the employee to use the property. Instead, the determination of "required" depends on all the facts and circumstances of the case.

The Tax Court found that, because of her heavy caseload and the number of sales representatives she managed, it was necessary for Mulne to use a computer and printer at home. A Pacific Bell manager testified at trial that, by using computers at home, sales managers could access information via modem and generally keep up with their work load. The manager noted that only high-level management could enter the building after hours and that Mulne was not among them—so she was unable to use the office computer after business hours.

The court found that Mulne's use of the computer and printer was for the convenience of her employer and was required as a condition of employment. Accordingly, the law was allowed to make the expense election and deduct the full \$3,689 cost in one year.

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Is It Ever So Humble *continued from page 130*

## This Old Rollover

Taxpayers have long been able to deduct the expenses of maintaining a home office (e.g., portion of rent or depreciation, insurance, utilities, and repairs). But the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 made sweeping changes in the rules governing home office depreciation. Under the new rules, a sizable portion of the taxes you saved by claiming depreciation on your home office will likely be paid back when you sell the house, even if you buy a replacement residence.

For example, consider a self-employed, freelance programmer owning a six-room house. One room is stuffed with computer equipment and serves as office, one-sixth of household expenditures for utilities and maintenance are deducted. Depreciation expense for one-sixth of the cost of the house is also claimed.

The programmer has been thinking about selling the house at a profit, and buying a more expensive one. Before the tax law changed, the gain from the old residence could be "rolled over" into the replacement residence, deferring the gain for tax purposes.

A portion of the gain would have to be allocated to the home office, and that portion wouldn't qualify for rollover because it was considered a sale of business property. A 1982 ruling, however, indicates that if a home office deduction isn't being claimed at the time the house is sold, the entire property can qualify for gain rollover, even if an office in the home deduction had been claimed in earlier years.

This year's tax legislation changes all that. The old rule, postponing gain on the sale of a principle residence if you purchase a replacement residence within two years, was repealed for sales after May 6, 1997.

In its place, a new rule says that an individual can exclude up to \$250,000 of gain on the sale of a residence (or up to \$500,000 on a joint return). Gain is taxed, however, to the extent of any depreciation allowable for business on the residence after May 6, 1997.

So if the programmer claims \$10,000 for depreciation of the home office occurring after May 6, 1997, then sells the house a gain any time after, that \$10,000 of depreciation will be recaptured, meaning \$10,000 of income must be reported in whatever year the house is sold. And special tax rules apply. Even if depreciation deductions are not actually claimed on the returns, the recapture will apply to the extent depreciation was allowable on the home—could have claimed it.

Most consultants who are claiming a

home office will continue to do so despite the new depreciation recapture rule, because the recapture will only inflict its pain down the road. And there are still plenty of other tax benefits for a home office. Of course, if you are a renter, the rule can't hurt you.

## The Sun Shines Bright

On the happy side, the new law imposes less stringent conditions on eligibility for claiming a home office deduction. One way home office expenses are deductible is when they can be allocated to a portion of the home that is exclusively used on a regular basis as the taxpayer's principal place of business. Under prior law, "principal place of business" meant a place where a taxpayer performed the essence of professional services. Contract techies who routinely consulted, did programming, or wrote documentation at their client's site were often disqualified.

The new law is more liberal. A home office qualifies as a principle place of business if:

1. The office is used by the taxpayer to conduct administrative or management activities of the taxpayer's trade or business; and
2. There is no other fixed location of the trade or business where the taxpayer conducts substantial administrative or management activities of the trade or business.

Under the new standard, a programmer or other technical consultant might spend most of the day being harangued by clients at their business locations and still be eligible to claim an office in the home deduction. However, the new standard will apply only for tax years beginning after December 31, 1998.

## On The Road Again

The expanded definition of principle place of business, once it comes into effect, will also enable many self-employed or contract workers to deduct the cost of daily transportation to and from their homes to meet with clients.

Whether the transportation is deductible or not may depend on if a home office deduction is allowed. Under prior law, transportation costs were often classified as nondeductible commuting expenses because it was so difficult to meet the principle place of business test. The rules allowing automotive expenses roughly translate as follows:

- (1) You can deduct the expense of daily transportation between your home and a temporary work location outside the metropolitan area where you live and normally work. However, unless paragraph (2) or (3) below applies, daily

transportation between your residence and a temporary work location within that metropolitan area is nondeductible.

- (2) If you have one or more regular work locations away from your residence, you can deduct transportation expenses incurred between your residence and a temporary work location, regardless of the distance.

- (3) If your home qualifies as your principal place of business, you can deduct the cost of transportation between your home and another work location, regardless of whether the other work location is regular or temporary and regardless of the distance.

Under this third paragraph, the most generous allowance for deductibility of transportation costs hinges upon having a qualified home office. Pass this test and you can drive your BMW to tax heaven.

The rules for writing off the cost of a computer, claiming home office expenses, and deducting automobile mileage are thus strangely intertwined in a tax macarena. With some catches, the new legislation mostly liberalizes the rules for the abused, workaholic employee; the garage-office entrepreneur (so long as it's not detached); and the contract techies—basically, the majority of those working in the Greater Silicon Valley. ■

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1997 Income Tax Organizer (available for individuals, partnerships, corporations, or trusts)  
Tax Court decision in *Mulne v. Commissioner* (T.C. Memo 1996-320)

## RESOURCES:

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-34, Aug. 5, 1997)

Temp. Treasury Regulation Section 1.2606-6T(a)(2) (49 Federal Register pp. 42701-42713 Oct. 24, 1984)

Revenue Ruling 82-26 (1982-1 Cumulative Bulletin p.114)

Revenue Ruling 94-47 (1994-2 Cumulative Bulletin p.18)

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# Moving Your Web Site

## Or, Learn From Our Relocation Adventure

By Mary Eisenhart

When we set up our Web site a few years ago, we opted to start with a relatively simple system and add features as demand warranted, rather than adopt elaborate high-overhead technology. We figured the resulting experience would not only be economical, but of practical relevance to our budget-minded readers interested in a relatively user-friendly do-it-yourself approach to Internet connectivity.

We started out running MacHTTP on an old Mac IIx, and as the products evolved we've moved up to WebSTAR 2.1 on PowerMacs. On the whole, this has enabled us to run a Web site without hiring Web specialists, because maintaining documents, whether HTML files or searchable databases, is an easy extension of the work that's being done for our print edition, and it's easy to train the same people to do it.

Some time later, we put the same machine to work as an email server, using Eudora Internet Mail Server (formerly Apple Internet Mail Server) and Eudora Light, both freeware downloadable from [www.qualcomm.com](http://www.qualcomm.com). We've found this combination both functional and easy to configure, though using it has pointed to numerous instances where it would be worthwhile to upgrade to commercial products (from Qualcomm or others) that, for instance, support multiple email accounts from the same machine. Client software is available for both Mac and Windows, whichever platform is on a particular desktop, the employee gets it. While this system will scale up indefinitely, it is robust enough to handle predictable needs for the term, it is extremely well-suited for use on internal networks.

Over time we became increasingly dependent on reliable, real-time Internet connectivity, for everything from research to receiving digital ad files. So, when a move to a new office loomed last fall, we planned extensively. Some things worked better than others. We hope you'll derive some benefit from our experience.

Your current Web site may be anything from a few pages on your ISP's machine to multiple gigabytes on some serious Big Iron in your MIS department. It may be located on a machine that's physically in your home office; it may be on a machine co-located at a premium fast-connectivity specialist. Sooner or later, your own business and Internet commerce a

The basic communications infrastructure of even a small office has become infinitely more complex and more interdependent since the days when you ordered up a POTS line and it just worked.

whole evolve, you'll probably need to move the machine housing your Web site. Here are some considerations for a smooth transition.

### Rule #1: Plan

Months before you plan to move, make sure your new location has the necessary connectivity to support your planned activity. Your needs will vary depending on how much traffic your

site generates, but avoid dead-end "solutions" that limit your ability to adjust to foreseeable growth. For example, a small or home office might find an ISDN line quite adequate to handle email and the office's Web traffic, but the technology doesn't scale up well. In our case, aside from the fact that we were moving from an office with a fractional T-1 connection, we didn't feel we could get by with less at then-current traffic levels, the cost of individual ISDN lines to the desktops of everyone who needed Net access made the T-1/Ethernet alternative relatively attractive. A further advantage of the T-1 lines is that we're using a fraction of their capacity now and can get additional bandwidth from the existing network plumbing (at additional but incremental cost) as needed.

With the advent of cable modems, wireless XDSL technology, etc., you have a dizzying array of options. Save yourself enormous misery by spending time with a knowledgeable Internet specialist who can help you define your present and future needs and configure a solution that addresses them appropriately—networking, Internet connection, support services, etc.

### Rule #1: Don't Move From The Old Location Until You're Sure Everything In The New Location Works

This doesn't always work in real life. It's a worthy goal, because if people can find you on the Net you're not going to be doing downtime with them, so you want to minimize downtime.

Anticipate everything that could go wrong, including the ridiculous (for example, when we finally moved our server to its lovely new air-conditioned room, the Uninterruptible Power Supply beeped pitifully and shut the computer down. After half-tearing we told the building that somehow nobody had told the building management company that we actually needed the power to the room's outlets turned off).



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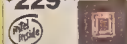
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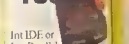
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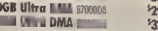


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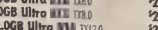
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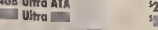
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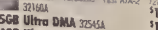


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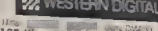
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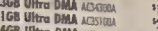
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## Moving Your Web Site (continued from page 136)

([www.microtimes.com](http://www.microtimes.com) ran for several days with a really silly-looking extension cord running down the hall to a functional outlet).

Moving your site from one location to another is going to require changing its net address—and making sure the name servers on the Internet are aware of the change so they direct the traffic appropriately. Your service provider should be able to handle this easily, but make sure you time the changeover to coincide with your need for the server to operate at the new site.

Perhaps most critical, before you unplug anything at the old site, make sure the new address is reachable from the net. If you are uncomfortable with UNIX-y commands like ping and traceroute, get someone who isn't to perform these tasks for you. If you have the luxury of an extra machine, duplicate your server's files on it and run the duplicate site at the new address, just to make sure everything's working. But on no account remove the server from its old location until the router at the new site is successfully pinged (accessed and shown to be active on the Net).

### Rule #3 Things Will Go Wrong Anyway. Have A Contingency Plan.

Having dutifully adhered to most of our own advice, we nonetheless had a noteworthy close encounter with Murphy.

Despite all the planning, moving day arrived and our new Net connection was dead as a doornail. Worse, due to var-

ious technological innovations, all our voice phones, internal networks, and fax machines depended on the same PacBell/MCI collaboration we were relying on for our Net connection, and initially they didn't work either.

This is not by way of pointing the finger at PacBell or MCI, who eventually get things working properly and keep them that way. It's by way of pointing out the basic communications infrastructure of a small office has become infinitely more complex and more dependent on the days when you ordered up a POTS line and it just worked. You'll weather assorted potential disasters much better for having a contingency plan that keeps things running until the problem's fixed.

In our case, it was weeks before this glorious day arrived, although the internal network and the voice phones worked fairly early on. Meanwhile we had a issue to ship,

with writers trying to send us stories, clients trying to send us ads, etc.

What saved us during that deadline was twofold:

- Due to the generosity of our former affiliates, our Web/mail server remained up and running at the old building while this was being resolved. Because of this, people could access our site, send mail, etc. Still unresolved was the issue of getting the mail to the relevant desktops, now twenty miles from the server; we could move files within the office over the Ethernet, but not get out to the Internet at all.

- It was at this point that we threw ourselves on the mercy of Susan Kohl, Dauntless PR-oid, at Metricom ([www.metricom.com](http://www.metricom.com)). Many read-

ers to access the queued-up mail and Sneaker- or Ethernet it to its proper recipient. (This allowed us leisurely contemplation of why we should have upgraded to Eudora Pro, which supports multiple mailboxes on a single CPU and would have saved us a lot of manual reconfiguration on those two machines as we sequentially downloaded everybody's mail.)

Once again we could interact with the digital world. The issue shipped. Life was good. And eventually our Internet address was actually pingable.

### Rule #4: Back Up Everything

So at that point, moving the server became an option. I drove to the old office, called Paul Hoffman to do his Internet wizardry to change the address, and by the time I had my machine back to Oakland and changed its address in the various config files, getting it up and running was simply a matter of plugging it into the wall and the Ethernet port.

That is, after we'd resolved that pesky problem with the wall outlets.

And there it's been running pretty fairly problem-free fashion ever since.

(Your mileage may vary considerably about the speed of the address change, so work closely with your provider on this.)

It should be needless to say that we backed up the server before we moved it, but we reiterate. Back Up.

Everything. Consider how long it's taken you to build up all those extremely interdependent files on your Web site, consider how long it would take you to reconstruct them, and just do the backup.

Ideally, you'll never need it, but the idea and the moving experience rarely converge, and our case failed to back up exactly our ancient desktop computer. It goes without saying that this is the one machine that chases you during the move, taking the sole copy of the small but important file with it and defying the most determined efforts of Norton Utilities to recover the file.

In summary, good planning can make moving your Web site a painless process. Good contingency planning can make the inevitable complications survivable. ■

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Despite our never having set up Ricochets before, configuration was a snap—Metricom's software is easy to install and makes getting online a simple matter of a few mouseclicks.

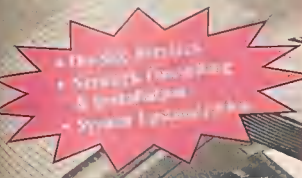
ers will recall our past coverage of Metricom's Ricochet technology, which offers low-cost, unmetered wireless access to the Internet using on-licence radio frequencies. Susan sent us two Ricochets, each of which came with a dedicated Internet account.

Despite our never having set up Ricochets before, configuration was a snap—Metricom's software is easy to install and makes getting online a simple matter of a few mouseclicks.

We attached the Ricochets to two Macs with good proximity to windows, since their nominally 28.8kbs performance can be significantly better or worse depending on line-of-sight and proximity to the nearest repeater. Fortunately for us, downtown Oakland, particularly on the 8th floor with a clear view of the Sutro Tower, gave us quite presentable reception.

With our new-found ability to access the Internet from these two machines, we were able

# Best Price Best Service



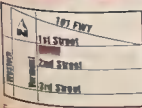
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# The Virtual Stationery Shop

iPrint Takes Custom Printing Online

By Mary Eisenhart

*Editor's Note: The alert reader will observe that Royal Farros, founder and CEO of iPrint, is also the author of our Internet Startup series, with iPrint's evolution serving as a foundation for the discussion. Filter accordingly, but we think iPrint is doing interesting stuff that's worth bringing to our readers' attention.—ME*

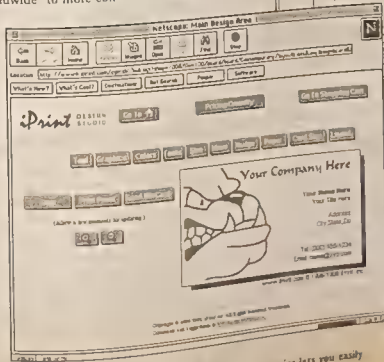
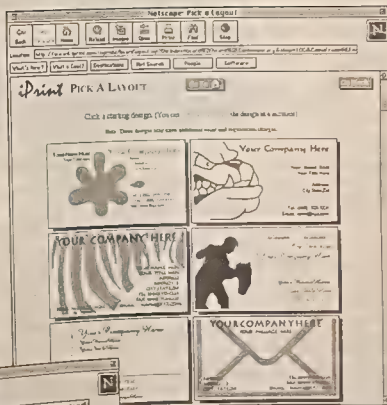
It's late January at [www.iprint.com](http://www.iprint.com), and the monitor screens are a-flicker with orders for the company's latest product offering: customized Valentine Post-It™ notes. Romantic ingenuity abounds amid the usual brisk trade in business cards, letterhead and rubber stamps.

The walls of the NASA-surplus offices, covered with samples of its clients' business cards ordered from iPrint's Web site, attest to the growth of the small-business sector—from a well-armed soldier of fortune "available for dangerous assignments worldwide" to more conventional tax-preparation, landscaping, and pre-selling services. There's also a healthy representation of corporate types and government workers, with iPrint agents especially prominent.

## A Better Way To Buy Bizcards

How to long ago, ordering business stationery was one of the minor annoyances of setting up a new office, or dealing with the fact that the company had changed the name. Now, if you're on, or changing your phone number to reflect that new area code). You

went to your local print shop, office supply store, etc., and pored over paper samples, print samples and typefaces. Having made your choices and filled out the order form—by hand—you sent it off with fond hopes that the ink you chose worked well with the paper you liked, and your logo was rendered correctly, the person who typeset your stationery could read your handwriting, and no typos managed to introduce them-



selves. Sometimes everything is perfect on the first attempt; quite often it wasn't. Large measure because there were no opportunities to preview the result.

iPrint, on the other hand, extends the WYSIWYG qualities of desktop publishing to do-it-yourself stationery design. PostScript-based technology enhances the customer's opportunity to customize and preview a look, while offering significant protection against hideous mistakes.

Arriving at the site, you're given such options as Business Cards, Letterhead, Post-Its, and Bumper Stickers. Make your choice, and you're conveyed to a page of templates, showing various sample layouts. Pick the one closest to what you have in mind and customize it—type in your own text, choose from a variety of fonts

iPrint's online ordering service lets you easily customize your business stationery.

## UPDATING THE SMALL OFFICE

### The Virtual Stationery Shop *continued.*

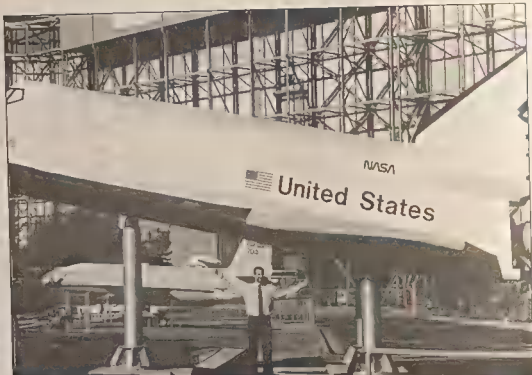
and colors, tweak the placement and spacing of the type. You can use a graphic from iPrint's library of clip art (judging from the wall, the paint splatter seems especially popular) or upload one from your own computer (in which case you're advised to use only 1-bit monochrome art, avoid low-res images, and keep the file under a megabyte for best results).

Once you've got the card the way you want it, with just the right ink and paper and typeface and layout, you can transplant your design to stationery, envelopes, etc., and make whatever adjustments are appropriate to the different form factors. Then you fill out your credit card info, mailing address, and similar practical details, and mousedown your order off to the destination. Turnaround time before your order arrives at your doorstep, according to Farros, varies from one day for single-color, flat-ink business cards to under a week for custom Post-Its.

"Whether you want to look for convenience, timeliness, error-rates, quality, whatever, iPrint is just much better than the outdated approach used by traditional printers today," says Farros, watching the monitors as customers order their personalized paper. "Quite frankly, in the way it would be silly to compare a word processor to a typewriter, putting iPrint in the old, manual way of ordering print is pretty one-sided."

### Print Shop Goes Virtual

"We think about going to create the sense that the ATM did." "We want to revolutionize the way print buyers work with commercial printers. We're after a billion industry that's still using decades-old technology."



The walls of the NASA-surplus offices, covered with samples of its clients' business cards ordered from iPrint's Web site, attest to the growth of the small-business sector—from a self-styled soldier of fortune "available for dangerous assignments worldwide" to more conventional tax-preparation, landscaping, and pet-sitting services.

gy—the whole process has been begging to be improved since before some of our customers were even born."

iPrint exemplifies a type of fast-moving business-to-business Internet commerce that takes advantage of the ability to specialize and to form quick ad-hoc relationships as necessary—i.e. it has a number of "virtual corporation" qualities, and a global scope.

The actual printing is not done in what Farros calls the Stalag 13 building that houses iPrint; the company's unique contribution to the mix is the unprecedented ease of use offered by its proprietary software, which offers an easy link between the products and services of various print shops and the customers who would otherwise be overwhelmed with options and jargon. Just as Amazon.com unites a host of independent book dealers under a single "storefront" operation, iPrint funnels business to several different printers with different spe-

Left: To infinity and beyond—Farros drawing inspiration outside iPrint's offices.

cialties to ensure the best price/performance ratio—to that, for example, the press that specializes in Post-Its doesn't have to be expensively reconfigured for a run of letterhead.

Further focus-based economies are achieved by the fact that traditional vendors are rushing to embrace iPrint as an ally rather than battle it as a competitor. Office Max and Star Speedy are already on board, offering iPrint-based ordering in their stores, other large chains are in later negotiations.

As to ongoing business opportunities—"It's a wonderful time to be in the online printing business," enthuses Farros. "I just think, he says "There were 21 area code changes in the US for 1997; another 30 planned for 1998, and more in 1999. That means almost every piece of business printing has to be redone in the next few years, starting now. This phenomenon isn't limited to the US, either—Japan has just changed from a 3-digit to 8-digit zip code, so every piece of business printing has to be reprinted in Japan, too."

iPrint's experience, since opening about a year ago, suggests that a strategy of speculation and creating win-win relationships is far likelier to be successful online than a hard-bound adherence to traditional business culture. "The Internet is a tidal wave of opportunity," says startup zealot Farros. "It's an amazing wild adventure for those surfing the waves, and it's devastatingly destructive for those traditional businesses on the beach wondering what the fuss is about."

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# Speeding Up The Small/ Home Office Network

## ISDN+Ethernet From Farallon

By Tony Reveaux

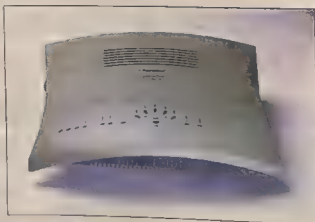
Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the explosive growth of the World Wide Web is that it has become so popular while, for most users, it is so very slow. In the age of instant TV, the Internet strains our patience even as it lures our curiosity and whets our interest for more.

Faster modem speeds, cable modems and other telecommunications schemes may promise quicker relief, but none is ever elusive. The Internet's universality stems from the fact that it travels worldwide carried on copper POTS (plain old telephone services). Cable modems will at best be isolated, scattered exceptions rather than the rule.

### The Need For Speed

ADSL technology, or asymmetric digital subscriber line, is a proposed standard that would offer online access at speeds up to 30 times faster than those realized over a 56K modem. At least a year away from general implementation, ADSL may not be provided consistently by carriers, and it probably is too costly for the average user.

While neither cheap, easy, nor available everywhere, ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) is here now. ISDN is an all-digital high-bandwidth dial-up connection technology that can simultaneously transmit voice conversations and data calls over the same pair of channels on POTS wires. ISDN supports speeds



The Netopia 435 Router 435

of up to 128Kbps, uncompressed—more than four times faster than 28.8Kbps analog modems—and the performance is more reliable. ISDN is used by individuals, and by businesses from SOHOs to corporations, for more efficient and speedier transmissions.

Using the Internet is a dynamically fluid exchange between source and receiver. If the page you are trying to read is coming from a host server that's a heavily subscribed and overburdened desktop PC, drilling for data can be like pulling sap from a sugar maple.

If there any way to further enhance the speed of your Web watching experience even after you have ISDN? You can start at your own desktop machine. No matter what transmission speed you are in, the more powerful the processor is, the

faster it will be able to write the received bits to the screen of the page you are reading. I have noticed my Web surfing becoming snappier now that I'm using a PowerPC 8600/300 instead of a 100 MHz Mac.

There's yet another quantum leap you can make at the hardware level when you add Ethernet to the ISDN within the same device, as in a Farallon Netopia ISDN router.

### ISDN + Ethernet

Ethernet (usually "thin" Ethernet) uses coaxial cable—like what is used for cable television—with switching and repeater hubs for transmitting local area network (LAN) traffic at speeds up to 10Mbps. Ethernet is standard in most Macs and can be added to a PC with an Ethernet card. It greatly enhances the network performances of servers, terminals and devices like printers and routers. Ethernet is used in applications like digital video broadcast editing suites.

ISDN routers take advantage of both Ethernet and ISDN. The extensive Netopia line from Farallon has models available for both Macs and PCs. I have been working with a Netopia 435 ISDN Ethernet router as a single user on a Mac and find it brings in the Web much faster than a regular ISDN modem. At times it approaches the speed of cable modems I've seen in demos.

A router is a device which intelligently connects networks to each other. They can be also used for dissimilar network types, facilitated by gateways, such as LocalTalk to Ethernet. They can also connect a LAN to a WAN (Wide Area

If the page you're trying to read is coming from a host server that's a heavily subscribed and overburdened desktop PC, drilling for data will be like pulling sap from a sugar maple.





# Speeding Up *continued*

Network) or to high-speed T-1 and T-3 lines with the appropriate cards and connectors. They're primarily designed for sharing resources among multiple users, e.g., in an office.

As in the Netopia line, all users on the network can have their own dial-up ISDN Internet connection simultaneously. Thus, even for two users in a small/home office, sharing one ISDN Ethernet router resource can be as economical, or more so, than two regular ISDN modems.

**Ethernet is standard in most Macs and can be added to a PC with an Ethernet card. It greatly enhances the network performance between servers, terminals and devices like printers and renderers.**

## The Router Limits

But for a single user, wouldn't an Ethernet modem, or an ISDN single Ethernet modem, be more economical than going up to a router?

I asked Farallon product manager Barbara Tien about the underlying technologies for these communication options.

"For the 56K Ethernet modem," she explains, "the top speed the modem is able to do is 52K in either direction. The limitations on the serial port are typically in the neighborhood of 70K-80K. That's where you start to run into trouble. For just a single modem you're not going to get any better performance in the Ethernet connection." These modems can Ethernet to enable a terminal or device to be able to share into the LAN or WAN that is linked by Ethernet. It's the device-to-device performance that makes Ethernet such a superior networking connection. By itself, it can't give you more speed from the Internet. What Ethernet does for ISDN with a device like a Mac or PC is allow the signal to bypass the computer's internal bus architecture, enjoying a direct connection.

For a router architecture, "We don't save anything in terms of cost," adds Tien, "because all the hardware is the same whether it was configured for one user or many users. The limitations on the number of users is determined by how the IP is set up. We can upgrade the router architecture from 16 to an unlimited number of users by just turning on a feature set in the router.

"As a design goal, we have put performance as a very high requirement. A product could be made more cheaply, but you would

lose some of the performance advantages and the ability to easily upgrade it to more users, to an enhanced interface or to a full-time connection instead of a dial-up, or to host a Web site. By replacing a daughter card you could bring it up to a fractional T-1 connection that could take you to speeds of anywhere from 128K with ISDN to 1.5Mb [megaBITS instead of megaBYTES, hence small b]."

## Netopia

The sleek, sloping UFO-ish Netopia shell sports an array of LED indicators that continually report on distributed assignments and activation. The device's back panel has two EtherWave jacks (RJ45 ports) for EtherWave (10BaseT, Ethernet) connections, an AUI port for an Ethernet connection, a Telco port for ISDN, T-1 or DDS/ADN connection, and a console port (mini-DIN-8 port) for connection to a PC or Macintosh console (stand-alone desktop terminal). This supports multilink Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) allowing you to transfer data simultaneously on both 64K data channels on the ISDN line.

Dual RJ-11 telephone POTS ports allow you to attach analog devices, and support such activities as being able to talk on a voice line, send and receive faxes, and be online at the same time. The side panel reveals a PC Card slot for a modem card connection, used for remote configuration. Reflecting the company's Macintosh heritage, the Netopia includes both LocalTalk and AppleTalk routing with a PhoneNET port.

Configuring anything for ISDN, let alone a router, can be daunting, but I have found all the Farallon technical support to be excellent. The four-pound "Getting Started" manual is then

bulky because it provides the materials in English, French, German and Japanese. Included is the Netopia Internet Starter kit (CD-ROM for Mac and Windows, which has all the documentation and SmartStart configuration software, and it has Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netopia Virtual Office, the Timbuktu Pro remote management utilities and other goodies.

The Netopia 630 ISDN Ethernet router is limited to fewer (29) users and doesn't have POTS, but has the same performance as the 435 and retails at about \$500-600. With an SRP of about \$1,300, the Netopia 435 model is one of those supported by the Farallon SmartStart Web Management configuration. Using this path, you can configure your router for connection to the ISP, IP addresses and remote Internet gateways, a served IP address pool, IPX network services and AppleTalk, where applicable.

For the Macintosh, telnet through the included ZTerm is the more direct route for configuration. Familiarity with the telnet access can be helpful for testing and changing things like dial-up access numbers.

For those who want to offload the whole configuration experience, especially those who are starting up, Farallon offers the Up & Running! Guaranteed! service. Starting at \$495 a year, it takes charge of the entire process, helping you choose the telephone, Internet and ISP services that fit your needs. They dial into your Netopia and configure it to work with all that and your LAN, set up a workstation on your network, and help to configure the rest of your PCs on the LAN. Demonstrating that they are firmly committed and connected to the Internet, Farallon offers a widening selection of online upgrades, some of them automatic. It's the next best thing to the Star Trek transporter option.

## Reading Material

At four-and-a-half pounds, Tom Sheldrake's *Encyclopedia of Networking* (Electronic Edition, LAN Times Osborne, 1164 pp., \$49.99 + CD-ROM) covers the vast, expanding world of networking terms and technologies. It alphabetically lists and explains in great depth and detail key networking concepts assisted by many

**Dual RJ-11 telephone POTS ports allow you to attach analog devices, and support such activities as being able to talk on a voice line, send and receive fax, and be online at the same time.**

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## Internet Economics 101

### Why Is It Slow?

### Every month

or two a reporter asks me, "Why is the Internet so slow?"

Usually the next question is, "Why doesn't the Internet slow to a stop?"

To answer these questions, we have to discuss the economics of the Internet. I've alluded to this before, most recently in "Is the Internet a Commons?" But I haven't gone into it in detail in a column before.

Disclaimer: I am not an economist; I merely play one in this column. I'll be happy to entertain any refinements to what I say here.

### Internet Money Flow

Where does Internet capacity come from, anyway?

Users pay Internet Service Providers (ISPs) so they can dial-up ■ ISP. Local ISPs pay wide area ISPs for long-haul service over leased lines. ISPs pay Network Access Points (NAPs) to exchange traffic.

Wide area ISPs don't generally pay each other to exchange traffic, but that's another subject that I don't want to get into right ■ Call that ■ Internet Economics 102.

There are numerous variants on this simple scheme. An end-user may use ■ access to technology other than a modem, such as ISDN, ADSL, cable modem, or satellite. The end-user may be a person, a university, ■ company, or some other entity, large or small, rich or poor. ISPs may ■ all sorts of different technologies. But they all ■ the Internet Protocol (IP) ■ we wouldn't be talking about the Internet. And the money flows generally from the end-user upwards through smaller to larger ISPs. Each Internet Service Provider uses some of that money to pay for capacity.

There are also other sources of money. People and companies pay Web farms (which may or may not also be ISPs) to serve Web pages ■ the Internet. Web farms, or Web hosting companies, or Web service providers, pay ISPs for Internet access, and that money feeds into the same channels as end-user ISP access money.

People pay for information and other products and services over the Internet. The companies that accept payment or provide deliv-

The Internet approximately doubles in size every year because of user demand. Growth at such a rate makes it almost impossible for an ISP to pay for necessary new capacity out of cash flow.

ery of such products and services pay ISPs for their own access. That's more money in the cash river.

And there is ■ big complication that leads to another source of money. The Internet approximately doubles in size every year. This ■ because of user demand, which is as it should be. But growth ■ such a rate makes it almost impossible for ■ ISP to pay for necessary new capacity out of cash flow. We're talking as many new servers, routers, and as much more bandwidth every year ■ the ISP had total the previous year.

The extra money is coming from somewhere. Where? Investment from the ISP owners, from banks, from venture capitalists, and especially for the big ISPs, from the stock market. Everybody senses a booming industry and wants to buy into it. Not everybody ■ going to win in the end, but those who have deep enough pockets to keep pouring in cash for another 3-5 years, until at least the US Internet finally saturates the market, will then begin to reap their financial rewards. And in the meantime a lot of people are playing the stock market.

"Yes, but why ■ the Internet so slow?" So how does tracing Internet money flows answer the question? Well, deployment of new capacity happens at about the same rate as money flows into the Internet from users and their traffic. Internet responsiveness being roughly capacity divided by traffic, people can tune to see the Internet as slow.

### It's Actually Getting Faster

Actually, the Internet is getting faster, and has been doing so consistently over the long term for years now. For graphical evidence of this see our MIDS Internet Weather Report [www.mids.org/ieether/ieether.html](http://www.mids.org/ieether/ieether.html), especially the long-term graphs [www.mids.org/ieether/ieethergraphs](http://www.mids.org/ieether/ieethergraphs).

Longtime Internet users don't really need these graphs to prove this point. Those of us who can remember the 56Kbps first version of NSFNET, or the T-1 (1.544Mbps) second version, or even the F-3 (45Mbps) third version, don't need any reminders that things are way faster now. I know, the NSFNET was partly funded by tax money. But the commercial ISPs that started in 1991 (AlterNet and PSINet were the first two) and exploded in 1994 follow the same

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# Guide

Internet *continued*

mercial economic model I have outlined. The commercial ISPs started mostly as T-1 networks and quickly expanded through T-3 to even faster speeds.

### A Numerical Answer

The easiest way to answer the question about "Why doesn't the Internet slow to a stop?" is to look at history.

Around 1993, the World Wide Web (WWW or the Web) started to be deployed. Mosaic was released in April of that year, causing the first big surge of Web use.

Lots of people were worried. Transferring pictures over the Internet was unusual, and here was an Internet service that made pictures easy. It even prompted using pictures with every information exchange.

Surely all this new traffic would overload the Internet. After all, a single GIF image could be bigger than one person's typical day's worth of electronic mail traffic.

The perceived problem got even worse in 1995, when Netscape became popular. It not only transferred images, it deliberately transferred four of them at a time! Surely this was user convenience at the cost of damaging the Internet infrastructure everyone depended on?

Well, that's not the way  
worked out. Instead, the  
Web boom attracted

hordes of new users to the Internet. These users were, for the most part, willing to pay to see these fast pictures. A whole new industry of small ISPs sprang up to provide the access the users wanted to pay for. The small ISPs paid bigger ISPs for access. The bigger ISPs put in more bandwidth and links to handle the demand. The entire Internet grew, by every measure, very fast.

■because of this boom, the year 1994 is often mentioned reverently by those who first discovered the Internet then, and especially by those who made their fortunes in the boom that started then. Maybe we should invent ■ Internet dating system, with pre-1994 and post-1994 eras that are radically different. (I find it amusing when someone says to me, "You were on the Internet in 1994.")

So more traffic paradoxically produced more bandwidth. And that wasn't an accident. This is the way the Internet works.

### An Intuitive Answer

### An Intuitive Answer

Recently I got a more specific question: "Why does everyone see an Internet slowdown at about the hour of 3:50am Eastern Time?"

I know it's considered lucky these days to bring up the tired highway analogy, but sometimes it still is useful.

[illegible]



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# Online Guide

Internet continued.

Why do traffic jams on highways happen around 9am and 5pm? Because those are peak usage times.

Why do traffic jams happen at all? Because the taxpayers or toll road users are not willing to pay for enough capacity to completely prevent them. Even if they were willing to pay, deployment of the new capacity would take a while.

Why don't traffic jams happen all the time? Because the taxpayers wouldn't put up with that.

The Internet differs from highways in that its feedback loops are much faster. Also, the kinds of traffic the Internet carries, and the types of links it includes, vary much more quickly than for highways. But the basic economic feedback mechanism is the same.

Just as on the Internet, the highways capacity tends to be enough for average load, but not enough for peak load.

If the Internet had enough capacity to avoid slowdowns in the afternoon, lots of people would move to cheaper ISPs. That would lead to

less capacity (or to capacity not keeping up as closely with traffic growth, which amounts to the same thing). Afternoon traffic slowdowns would result.

If the Internet had so little capacity that it always seemed slow, either people would pay more and we'd get more capacity, or people wouldn't sign up as quickly, and capacity deployment would catch up.

## A Matter Of Perception

So why do people still think the Internet is slow? Partly due to expectations.

For one thing, people don't notice gradual improvement, but they do notice sudden changes for the worse. There are seasonal changes in Internet responsiveness. In January and September every year, the Internet does in fact get slower over the short term. Why? All those students going back to college.

For another thing, there is the Internet new user phenomenon. Remember, the Internet is

doubling in size each year. That means every year half of the Internet's users weren't users last year. Where did they get their expectations, if not from television demonstrations of Internet use, or from canned single-machine demonstrations, both of which naturally use optimal conditions. Or from personal computer response times, which of course are wildly unrealistic measures for wide area network response times.

Or are they?

The Internet has been created out of nothing because people wanted it. There are physical limits to what can be done over computer networks, such as the speed of light. But most of the delays that people perceive in the Internet now are not up against those limits yet. People's perceptions will cause the Internet to improve to meet them.

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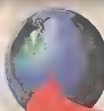
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## Good Film Hunting

Movies On The Web

**March is** a great time to take a look at Web sites covering film, movies, and cinema. Of course, the Academy Awards will be held March 23 and broadcast on ABC. ■ let's start there

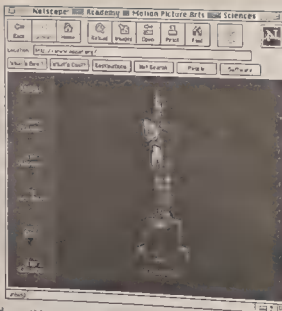
### Oscars Online

You can visit [www.oscar.org](http://www.oscar.org), sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science (AMPAS). This site is a relatively trade-oriented Web site for those in the biz.

A calendar section has deadlines for certain Academy events, including screenings of new documentary films and what exhibits are on display in the Academy's Gallery. Another link will take you to an alphabetized listing of all of the movies that qualified to be nominated for this year's awards. Click on *Titanic* and you'll see a listing of the credited actors.

There is a timetable for the Oscar balloting. For instance, final ballots must be mailed by March 3, while the final polls close March 17, less than a week before the awards show. This site, too, is the place where you try to get a press badge. They have many requests this year, I doubt Murphy Brown could get a pass.

Some other neat features of this site include a history of the Oscar itself, first sculpted in 1928 by George Stanley, and a keyword searchable database of Oscar winners dating back 1927. Here you search by keyword or enter parameter searches for year or award categories. For instance the winner of the Academy Award for Best Cinematography (B&W) in 1952 was Robert Surtees for *The Bad and the Beautiful*. He had previously won an Oscar for cinematography for *King Solomon's Mines* (1950). ■ had been nominated for *Twenty Seconds Over Tokyo*



(1944) and *Quo Vadis* (1951). Surtees again won the best cinematography award in 1959 for *Ben Hur* and went on to be nominated another 11 times for his work on *Oklahoma!*, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, *The Graduate*, *Doctor Dolittle*, *Mutiny on the Picture Show*, *Summer of '42*, *The Sting*, *The Hindenburg*, *A Star Is Born*, *The Turning Point*, and *Same Time Next Year*. What a career!

If you love movies you could spend hours here. ■ be warned, if you think you ■ this site as a cheat for your next round of "7 Degrees of Kevin Bacon," forget it. He's not listed anywhere.

Moving on to Oscar night in particular, there is [www.oscar.com](http://www.oscar.com). This is the site co-produced with ABC, broadcaster of the Oscar event. Where Oscar Org is trade, and Oscar Com is for the retail crowd like you and me.

Of course there will be the full nominee list and a timeline of Oscar history in the context of world events from 1927 to 1997. There will also be a photo gallery of Best Movie poster art. For the

helplessly hip, there will also be fashion report and beauty dress trends—because everyone knows Oscar night is not only about the movies but about sartorial self-expression, just like Halloween. There's even a section covering the 15 "best" costumes that people have worn to the Oscar ceremonies. A fashion game offers sketches, questions and comments about 25 costumes that you have to match up with the right movie.

Other games include a historical Oscar trivia game, and an identify the nominees challenge where you get progressively obvious clues until you can guess the actor in question. But most fun of all is the "Guess The Winners" contest, where you get to make your picks for winners in various categories.

Last year, the winner of the "You'll Never Log On In This Town Again" sweepstakes was Larry Petrovic of Illinois. Larry received a check for \$1000. Not scale. But not shabby.

My favorite section, though, is the stuff about Oscar Nite in America with listings of Oscar parties all across America. And you might as well party in Fresno, "cause you won't find a room in LA available on March 23rd.

### But Wait...

Last I looked, Yahoo listed at least seven sites with some sort of contest theme. There may be more now, so check again—some of these are old sites from '96 or '97 and haven't been updated yet. For instance, last year, the *Chicago Tribune* held a Beat Siskel contest, during which readers to beat what turned out to be Siskel's uncharitably correct picks for 1997 ([www.chicagotribune.com/flicks/oscar/siskel.htm](http://www.chicagotribune.com/flicks/oscar/siskel.htm)).

A new site that deserves your attention, Flick Picks ([www.flickpicks.com](http://www.flickpicks.com)), has a good concept and executes it well. Flick Picks gives you unbiased



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# Online Guide

## Online Services *continued*

information to help you decide for yourself whether it's worth shelling out hard-earned cash to see a movie. The ratings and comments you see here are from real people—moviegoers like yourself who paid to see the movies they rated. The site is not affiliated with any studio, distributor, crank reviewers or syndicated columnists. In fact, the

deal here is that it lets ordinary people express their opinions about the films they see, rather than relying on some expert (or not) authority figure like... well, you know, those two guys in Chicago, for instance.

The major sections of the site include "Rate a Flick." Here, you register with a user name and

password and then enter the rating area. A pull-down movie-listing menu lets you select the movie and then you can select a rating for it. I gave *Deconstructing Harry* two stars, *L.A. Confidential* three stars (is what Kim Basinger called acting?), and *The Full Monty* four stars. Five stars should be reserved for only the best of best.

The "New This Week" section covers movies that are just opening, while the "Coming Attractions" section lists upcoming flicks, including information concerning the film's associated studios, director, principal actors, storyline and expected release date. In the "People's Choice" section you can review the updated ratings for various movies as rated by all registered Flick Pick browsers like you.

When I visited in January, before any of the nominations were out, *Titanic* was rated at 4.5 stars, followed by *Good Will Hunting*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Eve's Bayou*, *As Good as It Gets*, *The Full Monty*, and *The Postman*, all with four stars.

On the subject of four stars for the much-maligned *Postman*—David Nolan of Atlas Communications, the firm that developed the Flick Pick suite, observes: "This (The *Postman*) is clearly a movie that moviegoers like a lot better than do the professional movie critics." Refreshing. Especially since I recall Kevin Costner whirling in *Waterworld*, "I didn't think you cared." Finally, a movie links section offers links to movie studios, Box Office online, weekly top moneymaking film listings, and links to more review sites.

Now Mr. Cranky is another story. Point your browser to [www.inter.net-plaza.net/zoner/mrccranky/](http://www.inter.net-plaza.net/zoner/mrccranky/) to see some of the most crutchever movie reviews you'll ever want to read. There are no *Mr. Cranky Rates the Movies* Web site. Only bombs Mr. Cranky, the anti-critic, as

*Flick Picks gives you unbiased information to help you decide for yourself whether it's worth shelling out hard-earned cash to see a movie. The ratings and comments you see here are from real people—moviegoers like yourself who paid to see the movies they rated.*

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# Online Guide

## Online Services *continued*

in anti-hero. No movie is a good movie, according to Mr. Cranky, ■ the reviews ■ focused on telling readers why each particular movie sucks.

A one-bomb rating means a movie is "almost tolerable." Two bombs mean the flick is "consistently annoying." Three bombs ensure the viewer will "require therapy after viewing." "As good

as a poke in the eye with a sharp stick," is the four-bomb rating. Finally, the sizzling sticks of dynamite mean the movie was "so gawdawful that it ruptured the very fabric of space and time with the sheer overpowering force of its mediocrity. (Special instances only)."

Aside from Mr. Cranky's rantings...er, I mean

ratings, there is a public forum area where you can rant yourself silly. Mr. Cranky also offers a mailing list for subscribers who want to be the first to know how bad *Lost In Space* (to be released April 3) really is.

But the real show is Mr. Cranky's text reviews. Here's the third of four paragraphs that make up Mr. Cranky's one-bomb rating of *Good Will Hunting*:

"So poor Matt Damon and poor Ben Affleck wrote *Good Will Hunting*, about a poor Boston southie who's actually a mathematics genius, but needs some attention because he's been wounded and hurt during his life. Damon probably got the idea after taking a wrong turn on his Beemer, winding up in a bad neighborhood and thinking, 'Wow, what if one of these losers were at

*There are no stars on the Mr. Cranky Rates the Movies Web site. Only bombs. Mr. Cranky is the anti-critic, as in anti-hero. No movie is a good movie, according to Mr. Cranky, so the reviews are focused on telling readers why each particular movie sucks.*

smart ■ me?" and 'I'd better get the hell out of here before I'm gang-raped.' *Good Will Hunting* is Matt Damon's version of slumming it: Trying to identify with the common man, and in the end achieving only a clumsy, insulating condescension."

On the opposite end of the spectrum, here's a comment from Mr. Cranky for his four-bomb review of *Home Alone 2*: "However, even more insidious ■ the way in which movies like this one are creating a cinematic world where debate about quality is virtually impossible. Discerning free will is moot if we all proceed selves automaton who'll simply do anything we're told. If the side of the package says 'I'm s\*\*\*,' we'll eat s\*\*\*. If the television says 'Kill your parents,' we'll kill our parents. As Hollywood says 'See *Home Alone 3*,' because that's all they're going ■ give us, then we're going to go see *Home Alone 3*."

Words ■ live by? Maybe. But I sure hope Mr. Cranky doesn't ever review what passes for computer journalism. ■

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BY JILL BARNES

## Women On The Web

A Sampling Of Resources, From Jobs To Adventures

### While recognizing

the benefits of the Internet, many women still don't find computers female-friendly. There's lots of information for us out there on the Internet, but the problem is still where to look.

Punch "Women" into any search engine, and the number of related sites is astronomical. There's so much stuff floating around out there it would take days to decipher it all.

Well, help is on the way. These are some places I found on selected topics ■ start you off. Most sites also offer related links if a particular subject strikes your fancy.

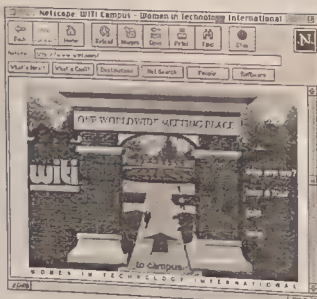
### Technology/Business

The Association For Women In Computers ([www.awc-hq.org/awc](http://www.awc-hq.org/awc)) promotes the advancement of women in computer professions. You'll find contact info for local chapters and features on women and computers. One recent story included, "Computer Confidence for Women," which had a Letterman-style "Top 18" list of why women avoid computing.

Women In Technology International ([www.witi.com](http://www.witi.com)) was founded by Carolyn Leighton because of her growing concerns about the glass ceiling. In addition to technology and science matters, the site also addresses women in all professional fields ■ they keep up with the ever-changing world of technology. Features include news, resources, center, technology center and a network cafe.

Past Notable Women Of Computing ([www.yale.edu/homestep/past-women-ca.html](http://www.yale.edu/homestep/past-women-ca.html)) ■ a bit of history on women who pioneered computing. ■ "notables" ■ back to the Ada Byron Lady Lovelace, daughter of poet Lord Byron, helped translate mathematics and technology text into everyday terms. She also did work ■ what was called a "calculating engine," ■ strange concept back then.

Women's Work ([www.wwork.com](http://www.wwork.com)) ■ a site for



business women. Topics include Smart Marketing, Successful Selling, Business Listings, Events Calendar, Job Bank, SBA/Women's Resource Centers, Forums, and Chats.

### General Interest

Cybergrrl ([www.cybergrrl.com](http://www.cybergrrl.com)) ■ one of my favorite all-around women sites. It's not preachy, just fun. It has lots of different features, including stories on women ■ history, book reviews, chat rooms and the Adventures of Cybergrrl, a comic strip that changes weekly. Cybergrrl Village lets you give your views on things. ■ You could spend a day going through all the different departments.

From here, there ■ two related sites, Femina ([www.femina.cybergrrl.com](http://www.femina.cybergrrl.com)), ■ search

engine for women's sites, and Webgrrl ([www.webgrrl.com](http://www.webgrrl.com)), an international networking group you can access online or "in the real world." Surfers can find local chapters around the country and go to the meetings. You also can join online and get jobs tips.

Another fun site is Go Girl Magazine ([www.gogirlmag.com](http://www.gogirlmag.com)). It's a sports and fitness web site. Its welcome note for 1998 was a feature offering 98 ways to make you healthy. The site also has info on books, CDs, and just general stuff on sports and fitness for women of all ages.

Some women's sites seem to have a little bit of everything. If you can't find what you're looking for at these sites, well, then it probably doesn't exist.

WWWomen ([www.women.com](http://www.women.com)) ■ designed like a Yahoo! search page (Arts & Entertainment, Computers, Sports) only all the categories ■ geared to women.

Women.com ([www.women.com](http://www.women.com)) is a general news wire for women. In addition to regular news, there are tips on health and beauty.

Feminist.com ([www.feminist.com](http://www.feminist.com)) is a major link site for information on business, health, classifieds, art and feature articles. There are also different boxes to click for related topics. There's also email to send messages.

Aviva ([www.aviva.org](http://www.aviva.org)), based in London, has women's events and news stories from around the world—Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America and South America.

The stories from the Middle East are sometimes both interesting and disturbing. A listed item about the Women's Islamic Games on Teheran showed how sports play an important role around the world. ■ now ■ the ■ shed their traditional Islamic clothing because men were absent from the audience. Last year



# Guide

## Women On The Web continued

violence erupted when Muslim activists, opposed to women riding bicycles, attacked cyclists at a sports complex in Teheran. We've come a long way, baby.

Tripod/Women ([www.tripod.com/women](http://www.tripod.com/women)) is geared to younger women. Instead of moderators, they have poderators. The site includes sections called Skirting the Issues and Zone Guide. Both have departments or pods to chose from.

The Wowfactor ([www.wowfactor.com](http://www.wowfactor.com)) has news, business services, listing of women-owned services, gifts and a section for working moms.

### Moms

Speaking of working moms, Working Moms Internet Refuge ([www.moms-refuge.com](http://www.moms-refuge.com)) is a great site. Departments include family, personal, career and juggling it all. There's even a Dad's section. Home-Based Working Moms ([www.hbwmm.com](http://www.hbwmm.com)) offers a monthly newsletter,

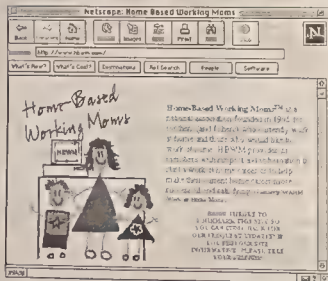
resource guides and other publications for mothers who work at home. Moms can share information, advertise their specialties and post their Web sites.

Family.com ([www.family.com](http://www.family.com)) has all sorts of features regarding family life. You also can do to your home state for a list of family magazines in your area. Some let you click to specific local features.

### Money

Money Matters (<http://cosmos.net/neil-net/pleades/voices/money/money.html>) is called a safety zone for women and their finances. "No question is too trivial to be left to discuss." Some of the topics include Controlling Your Finances, Finances in Tight Times, Infusion of Cash, Balancing the Checkbook, plus lots more.

Med Access ([www.medaccess.com/seniors/ruhrulwaha\\_15.htm](http://www.medaccess.com/seniors/ruhrulwaha_15.htm)) is a site geared to older women. It concerns their finances and how to keep personal records of things like pension funds, investment income, savings, stocks, bonds, property insurance numbers on policies for life.



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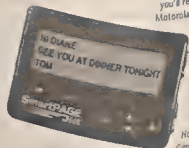
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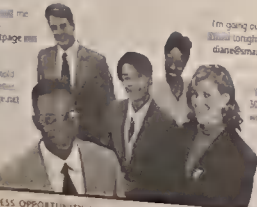
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[dad@smartpage.net](mailto:dad@smartpage.net)

My computer guy just checked his anti-virus. He said we're clean.  
[clockman@smartpage.net](mailto:clockman@smartpage.net)



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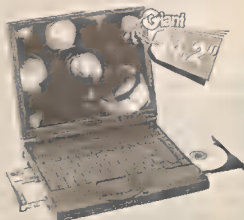
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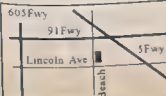
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## Online Guide

### Women On The Web continued

health, and property. There are also agencies to contact for more help.

#### Miscellaneous

The National Museum of Women In The Arts ([www.nmwa.org](http://www.nmwa.org)), located in Washington, D.C., offers a video tour of its art collection. You can download all sorts of pictures and sculptures. Although the downloads take a bit of time, it almost makes you feel like you're there.

The National Women's History Project ([www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)) notes that "History looks different when the contributions of women are included." The site provides materials and information services which celebrate women's lives and historic contributions. In the quiz section, find out who led a 125-mile march of child workers from the mills of Pennsylvania to President Theodore Roosevelt's vacation home on Long Island. Or who was one of the most important Union spies and scouts during the Civil War. (Hint

She was a Black woman who escaped from slavery). Sorry, you'll have to go to the site to find out.

Women's Web Magazine ([www.womenswebmagazine.com](http://www.womenswebmagazine.com)) offers general interest features, including info on car repair and women-owned repair shops.

GYN101 ([www.gyn101.com](http://www.gyn101.com)) is a health site which helps women find a gynecologist, what to expect during an exam and what questions to ask. It's a nice soothing site.

Rainbow Adventures ([www.rainbowadventures.com](http://www.rainbowadventures.com)) is a travel/adventure site for women only. The page is geared toward adventure travel for women over 30 and lists trips available for the coming year, such as its "Born to Be Wild" adventures.

And on our more vain side, there's Avon Calling—on the Internet ([www.avon.com](http://www.avon.com)). Here you can shop online for your favorite Avon products and never deal with any doorbell-ringing salesperson. ■

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Some women's sites seem to have a little bit of everything. If you can't find what you're looking for at these sites, well, then it probably doesn't exist.

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BY KEVIN M. SAVETZ

## Internet Chain Letters, Urban Legends, And You

Take Two Large Grains Of Salt And Call Me In The Morning

**There are** people on the Internet who are telling you lies. Mistruths. Fables and fibs. Urban legends. They spread them via email, in newsgroups, on the Web—and the people who are spreading these rumors probably don't even know they are false. Email viruses, the \$250 cookie recipe, the kid's dying wish, and others: ■ untrue, none worth your time

### Evil Spawn Of The Modem Tax

There I was, reading my email on a Saturday afternoon, when the message came:

I am writing you this to inform you of a very important matter currently under review by the FCC. Your local telephone company has filed a proposal with the FCC to impose per minute charges for your Internet service. They contend that your usage ■■■ or will hinder the operation of the telephone network...

Send your comments to [the FCC] and tell them what you think. Every phone company is in on this ■■■, and they are trying to ■■■ it in just under the wire for litigation [sic]. Let everyone ■■■ know hear this ■■■. Get the email address ■■■ everyone you ■■■ think of. The message was sent by a well-meaning ■■■, ciate ■■■ me and about 50 other people she knows. ■■■ the first ■■■ I had seen ■■■

message. I'd received copies from three other associates in the past weeks. I can certainly understand why—in the US, Internet access is cheap and no ■■■ wants to pay more for it.

The only problem is: the facts of the message ■■■ completely wrong. Breathless, imploring messages like that one are seldom accurate or timely.

In fall of 1996, several telephone companies did indeed file a proposal with the FCC to impose per-minute charges for Internet service. A few months later, the FCC rejected the proposal. The issue has been dead for well over a year. You can verify this information ■■■ the FCC's Web site—it has set up a special page ■■■ this subject. [www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common\\_Carrier/Factsheets/ispfact.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Factsheets/ispfact.html).

### Craig Shergold And Friends

There are many other examples of out-of-date information and urban legends floating around the Internet. Every so often one of them sees a surge of popularity and makes ■■■ comeback for a few weeks.

A timeless one ■■■ the story of Craig Shergold, a 9-year-old English boy who, diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor, wanted to be recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for receiving ■■■ most greeting cards. The message gives an address where you ■■■ send a card.

However, ■■■ message doesn't say that Craig

didn't die and is now 18 years old, his wish was fulfilled in 1990 after receiving 16 million cards, and everyone really, really wants the cards to stop coming.

Various versions of the story float around the Net—for instance, one ■■■ which Craig wants business cards. The Make-A-Wish Foundation has a Web page on the topic: [www.wish.org/wish/craig.html](http://www.wish.org/wish/craig.html).

Still other chain letters have no basis ■■■ reality, such ■■■ the one about "Little Jessica Myda," who is said to be suffering from cancer, with her own dying wish (to inform people of her condition and to send the message to "live life to the fullest"). The American Cancer Society, which is supposedly involved (but has no idea who Jessica is), has issued a statement about this one. ■■■ [www.cancer.org/chain.html](http://www.cancer.org/chain.html)

### ■ Very Afraid

Some tales ■■■ scarier—ghost stories that are passed around the Net like candy. A perennial favorite is the so-called "e-mail virus." These messages say that if you receive an electronic mail message with a certain subject line (such as "Good Times" or "PENPAL GREETINGS" or "Deyenda") and read it, your computer will be ruined. Despite the dire warnings, your ■■■ pouter ■■■ catch a virus simply by reading an email message from a stranger.

"Email as email presents no virus threat since viruses live in programs and email is data," says John Levine, co-author of *The Internet For Dummies*. If an email message contains ■■■ attached program, that program contains ■■■ virus—but just reading an email message can't hurt your machine. "If an email message contains an attached program, treat that with the same skepticism you'd use for any

Email viruses, the \$250 cookie recipe,  
the kid's dying wish, and others:  
All untrue, none worth your time.

# Online Guide

## Internet Chain Letters continued

other downloaded program. Consider where it came from, and use an up-to-date virus checker if you're not sure," Levine says.

### \$250 Buys ■ Lot of Hoaxes

Have you seen the message about the \$250 cookie recipe yet? Stay on the Net long enough and you will.

The story goes: Neiman-Marcus (or sometimes Mrs. Fields, depending on the evolution of the particular message) charged a shopper \$250 for its cookie recipe rather than the \$2.50 the customer had been expecting to pay. As revenge on the store for refusing to reverse the charge, she now provides the recipe for free and implores others to pass it along.

Versions of this story are more than 10 years old. It isn't true now and probably wasn't true even then. The Urban Legends References Pages have the whole truth and nothing but, at [www.snopes.com/spoons/faxlore/cookie.htm](http://www.snopes.com/spoons/faxlore/cookie.htm). Neiman-Marcus itself has a few choice words on the matter at [www.neimanmarcus.com/customer/default.htm](http://www.neimanmarcus.com/customer/default.htm).

There are still more hoaxes and chain letters out there. Some of them will find their way to your mailbox sooner or later. Two excellent Web pages on the subject have been created by the Computer Incident Advisory Capability at Lawrence Livermore National Labs: <http://ciac.llnl.gov/protocol/CIAHoaxes.html> focuses on hoaxes and <http://ciac.llnl.gov/protocol/CIAChainLetters.html> focuses specifically on chain letters. They are worthwhile reading that can help you avoid being duped, even by a well-meaning friend.

Some sections are rather amusing, such as the warning about "Internet Cleanup Day." This bogus message explains that the "Internet must be shut down for 24 hours in order to allow us to clean up." Other tales debunked in these pages are more grisly, like the warning about kidneys being harvested from unsuspecting victims. Yucky, but also untrue.

If you receive a message that implores you to act and/or to forward it to other people, take it with a large grain of salt. Take the time to verify the information for yourself before forwarding it to several dozen of your closest friends. Consider the source—that is, if a source is even known. Otherwise you'll just waste a lot of peoples' time.

My dying wish is for these chain letters to go away forever. Tell everyone you know. ■

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If you receive a message that implores you to act and/or to forward it to other people, take it with a large grain of salt. Take the time to verify the information for yourself before forwarding it to several dozen of your closest friends.

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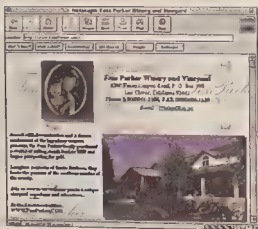
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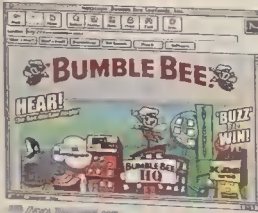
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**InterCom Services, Inc.** <http://www.intercom-services.com> Voice and data cabling, network installation, power and protection services, and equipment. [Exp. #178]

**LiveSpy Home Page** <http://home.earthlink.net/~oliveLiveSpy.html> LiveSpy is a Windows 95 application that periodically updates your desktop wallpaper from an Internet camera. [Exp. #176]

**Low End Mac** <http://www.lowendmac.com> Because sooner or later, every Mac becomes low end. [Exp. #176]

**Maccompass** <http://www.maccompass.com> The definitive guide for MacOS users. [Exp. #176]

**MailJail** <http://www.mailjail.com> MailJail is as advanced filtering system for Outlook and Eudora users. [Exp. #178]

**Mediavision Services** <http://www.mediavision.com> Mediavision services to upload film LCD projectors. [Exp. #178]

**MFC Programmer's SourceBook** <http://www.mfcprogrammer.com> An excellent online resource for Windows and Visual Basic programmers with lots of code. [Exp. #176]

**MicroPoint** <http://www.atira.com> MicroPoint

Mouse for the PC and Mac. [Exp. #178]

**Personalized Computer Services, Inc.** <http://www.pcservices.com> Custom-built computers and upgrade center. [Exp. #176]

**Phoenix Tech-Graphic** <http://www.phoenixtech.com> Phoenix Services, hardware, and software for hybrid CAD and engineering document management. [Exp. #176]

**Profile Data Systems** <http://www.profiledata.com> PC networking and services. [Exp. #178]

**PSC Distributors** <http://www.pscdistributors.com> Distributors of computers and components. [Exp. #176]

**Scanwall Home Page** <http://www.scanwall.com> [Exp. #178]

**Single Source Information Technology** <http://www.ssource.com> Specializing in computer accounting, distribution, and manufacturing software systems. [Exp. #176]

**Software World, Island Supershop** <http://www.softwareworld.com> Guaranteed unbeatable prices on software, hardware and accessories. [Exp. #176]

**Spectrum Studios** <http://www.spectrumstudios.com> Shipping services, Web design, CD duplication. [Exp. #178]

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**Williamson Electronics** <http://www.williamsonelectronics.com> Shipping for computer hardware. [Exp. #178]

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Libretto 8000DS	P1333	16	1.3GB	12.1" DSTN	10 X	-	\$1289.00
Satellite Pro 440CXX	P1333 mntx	16	1.3GB	12.1" DSTN	10 X	-	\$1449.00
Satellite Pro 445CXX	P1333 mntx	16	1.3GB	12.1" DSTN	10 X	33.6	\$1999.00
Satellite Pro 445CXX	P1333 mntx	16	1.3GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$1849.00
Satellite Pro 445CXX	P1333 mntx	16	1.3GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$1899.00
Satellite Pro 490CXX	P166 mntx	32	2GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$2799.00
Satellite Pro 450CXX	P166 mntx	32	2GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$3499.00
Satellite Pro 490CXX	P233 mntx	32	3.6GB	12.1" TFT	option	33.6	\$1949.00
Portege 300CT	P1333 mntx	32	1.5GB	10.4" TFT	10 X	28.8	\$2099.00
Portege 600CCT	P150	16	1.3GB	11.3" TFT	10 X	28.8	\$1849.00
Thraa 510CCT	P133	16	2GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$2999.00
Thraa 520CCT	P166 mntx	32	2GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$3099.00
Thraa 530CCT	P166 mntx	32	2GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	28.8	\$2049.00
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Thraa 740CCT	P166 mntx	32	3GB	13.3" TFT	20 X	28.8	\$4999.00
Thraa 750CCT	P233	32	16	13.3" TFT	20 X	28.8	\$4999.00

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Libretto Plus 4350	P150	16	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$1749.00
Libretto Plus 4350	P166 mntx	16	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$1849.00
Libretto Plus 7340	P1333 mntx	16	1.4GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$2149.00
Libretto Plus 7340	P166 mntx	32	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$2449.00
Libretto Plus 7520	P166 mntx	32	3.2GB	13.3" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$2749.00
Libretto Plus 7520	P233 mntx	32	3.2GB	13.3" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$3749.00
Libretto Plus 6550	P166 mntx	16	2.1GB	13.3" TFT	10 X	33.6	\$2749.00

### COMPAQ

Model	Processor	RAM	HD	Display	MO	MDM	Price
Presario 1210	P150	16	1.4GB	12.1" DSTN	14 X	33.6	\$1599.00
Presario 1610	P150 mntx	16	1.4GB	12.1" DSTN	14 X	33.6	\$1799.00
Presario 1620	P200 mntx	32	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$1999.00
Presario 1680	P150 mntx	32	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$2799.00
Armada 1540MT	P150 mntx	32	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	12 X	33.6	\$2099.00

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Model	Processor	RAM	HD	Display	MO	MDM	Price
LifeBook 565Tx	P166 mntx	32	2GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$2749.00
LifeBook 585Tx	P233 mntx	32	4GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$3449.00
LifeBook 656Tx	P150 mntx	16	2GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$2749.00
LifeBook 675Tx	P200 mntx	32	3.6GB	12.1" DSTN	20 X	33.6	\$4449.00
LifeBook 735DX	P1333	16	1.6GB	12.1" DSTN	20 X	33.6	\$1949.00
LifeBook 755Tx	P150 mntx	32	2GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$2149.00
LifeBook 765Tx	P166 mntx	32	2.2GB	12.1" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$2149.00
LifeBook 985Tx	P233 mntx	32	5GB	13.3" TFT	20 X	33.6	\$4899.00

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Model	Processor	RAM	HD	Display	MO	MDM	Price
ThinkPad 315ED	P1333 mntx	16	1.4GB	12.1" DSTN	10 X	-	\$2499.00
ThinkPad 3880	P150	16	2.1GB	12.1" TFT	8 X	-	\$1799.00
ThinkPad 365XD	P166	40	1.3GB	12.1" TFT	10 X	-	\$3199.00
ThinkPad 380ED	P166	16	16	12.1" TFT	-	-	Call
ThinkPad 770	P200 mntx	32	3.2GB	13.3" TFT	-	-	Call
ThinkPad 770	P233 mntx	32	3.2GB	13.3" TFT	-	-	Call
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**Artist-In-Residence** <http://www.shellsartspace.com>  
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**Asia-European Trading Company** <http://www.shing-cheong.com>  
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**Babe's Bears & Dolls** <http://www.csshore.com>  
Teddy Bears and doll accessories [Exp #178]

**Bargains on Goods for the Whole Family** <http://www.shellyshopping.com>  
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**Bellair Express** <http://www.bellair.com>  
Express home page for Bellair Express [Exp #178]

**Beiton Enterprises Home Page** <http://www.beiton.com>  
Beiton Web site, offering online services and company profile [Exp #178]

**Biegenheimer Design Communications Inc.** <http://www.biegenheimer.com>  
Interactive and con-

ventional design and advertising firm [Exp #178]

**Backstanz Cleaning Solutions** <http://www.backstanz.com>  
Cleaning solutions for today, tomorrow and beyond [Exp #178]

**Borrego Pinks** <http://www.quickpage.com/infostand>  
Mail order business for grapefruit and oranges [Exp #178]

**BPG International** <http://www.bpg-int.com>  
A call-back long distance phone in telecommunications [Exp #178]

**Bray Health & Leisure** <http://www.bray.co.uk>  
Manufacturers of health, beauty, and bodycare products [Exp #178]

**Bremer Communications** <http://www.bremcom.com>  
Image training and consulting [Exp #178]

**British Travel International** <http://www.britishtravel.com>  
Travel services for Britain and Continental Europe [Exp #176]

**Bruin Signs and Graphics** <http://www.bruin.com>  
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**Bumble Bee Tuna** <http://www.bumblebee.com>  
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**Bunny Graphics, Inc.** <http://www.bunnygraphics.com>  
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**Business Management International Holding Corp.** <http://www.bmi-usa.com>  
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**Cala Mondial** <http://www.cala-mondial.com>  
Training, telework, multimedia [Exp #178]

**Cake Decorating** <http://www.beyg.com>  
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of British cake decorating products [Exp #178]

**Carlisle Construction Co.** <http://www.carlisleco.com>  
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**Celebrity** <http://www.celebrity.com>  
Celebrity news, photos, and more [Exp #178]

**Celtic Dreams—Internet Gift Service** <http://www.celticdreams.com>  
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**Cleall Manufacturing** <http://www.cleall.com>  
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**Cries Designs** <http://www.cries.com>  
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**CyberMegaMail** <http://www.cybermegamail.com>  
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**CZ Jewelry** <http://www.jewelersdirect.com>  
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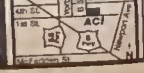
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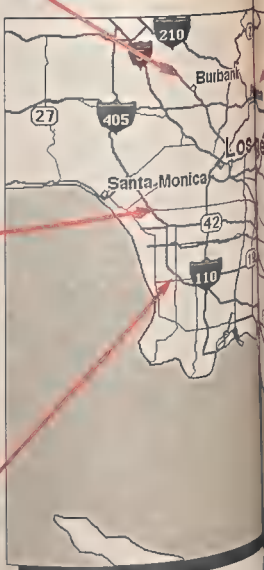
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<b>A-Z PC SUPPLY</b> 2417 E. Main St (X Street, Brea) Fullerton, 92731	<b>SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTORS</b> 8555 Harbor Ave (X Street, Brea) Fountain Valley, 92708	<b>JK ELECTRONICS</b> 1010 N. Harbor Ave (X Street, Newport & 130) Costa Mesa, 92626	<b>PC CLUB</b> 1421 E. Main St, Suite 14 (X Street, Brea) Santa Ana, 92704
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<http://www.math-net.com> Free investment charting and analysis software, imported Asian products, links, and more [Exp. #177].

**Micro-Matics Corp. Home Page** <http://www.micro-matics.com> [Exp. #176].

**Millers Rentals & Sales**  
<http://www.millers-rentals.com> Complete party rental service—tables, chairs, linens, staging, fine china, linen, weddings, corporate events [Exp. #176].

**Mindscore, Inc.** <http://www.mindscore.com> Expert witnesses, expert database, and expert network [Exp. #178].

**Minerals Management Service** <http://www.gomt.com> gov't Manage the mineral resources of the world continental shelf/Gulf of Mexico region [Exp. #178].

**Morning Glory Floral Design** <http://www.morningglory.com> Features wedding flower arrangements, wedding planning, and general floral design assistance [Exp. #176].

**Mr. Frail, Inc.** <http://www.mrfrail.com> The latest Florida gift shop [Exp. #176].

**M-Telnet Business Center** <http://www.mtelnet.com> Free classifieds and more [Exp. #176].

**Net Saver Wearz** <http://www.netseawearz.com> Clothing [Exp. #178].

**Norman Equipment Co.** <http://www.normanequip.com> Leader in fluid power [Exp. #178].

**Net Super Store** <http://www.netsuperstore.com> Your one-stop online store for electronics, books, and more [Exp. #178].

**NetSource Inc.** <http://www.netsource.com> LCD modules, LCD backlight modules, LCD shutters [Exp. #176].

custom LCD modules, COB modules, chip-on-board, heat seal connectors, and LCD shutters [Exp. #176].

**Office Depot** <http://www.officedepot.com> [Exp. #178].

**Owner** <http://www.owners.com> Wedding business [Exp. #176].

**P & T Partners** <http://www.pandt.com> Custom handgrips and Coil 45 [Exp. #178].

**Personal And Executive Coaching** <http://www.paxcoaching.com> Coach Peter Fabian has coached people successfully since 1992 in the US and Europe [Exp. #176].

**Peter Jason Riley, CPA** <http://www.pjrcpa.com> Tax and accounting service [Exp. #178].

**Pulse** <http://www.pulse.net> Gay and lesbian internet community matchmaking [Exp. #178].

**Precision Private Security** <http://www.cyberbase.com/precision.htm> A Security Guard Services company in L.A. with great rates. Member of the BBB [Exp. #176].

**Prevent It Ding** <http://www.preventit.com> Help you to protect your vehicle from parking lot dings while advertising your business [Exp. #176].

**Printing** <http://www.ongraphic.com> Commercial Web page and 3D [Exp. #178].

**Primedia Publishing Co.** <http://www.primedia.com> Book publisher [Exp. #178].

**Provident Companies** <http://www.provident.com> Specializing in disability, life, and health insurance [Exp. #176].

**Quality Consulting Services (QCS)** <http://www.qcs.com> [Exp. #178].

**Quick Relief Arthritis**

<http://www.health.com> Breakthrough arthritis pain relief remedy [Exp. #178].

**Real-Inventor** <http://www.realinventor.com> Helping companies create products from concept to completion [Exp. #176].

**Robert Scott—Coagion Agency** <http://www.lds.net/?phonestore> Looking for positive long-distance rates and international calling plans? Also offering prepaid phone cards [Exp. #176].

**ScreenCo** <http://www.screenco-online.com> ScreenCo brokers advertising specialty products including a large variety of screen-printed and embroidered items as well as a variety of non-wearables [Exp. #176].

**SearchPeople** <http://www.searchpeople.com> Personal locating services using millions of consumer reporting agency files, driver license files and public records in line and locate lost family members or friends are available [Exp. #176].

**ShellStations.com** <http://www.shellstations.com> Automotive repair stores with contests and coupons savings [Exp. #178].

**ShowBase, Inc.** <http://www.showbase.com> Home page at ShowBase, Inc [Exp. #178].

**ShrinkTack** <http://www.shrinktack.com> Psychological program and tool files, links to testing sites, and psychology software sites [Exp. #176].

**The Snowboard Shop** <http://www.snowboardshop.com> The online snowboard gear [Exp. #176].

**Solom World Papers** <http://www.solom.com> Read-mad and hand-drawn gift boxes [Exp. #178].

**Solutions is Rolter Settling** <http://www.solutions.com>

sad at Service center for sections and welded shapes [Exp. #176].

**SoundStone.com** <http://www.soundstone.com> Offering a vast catalog of audio files, discussed at up to 20% off standard retail prices [Exp. #176].

**Photography Library** <http://www.rainbowimages.com> Special collection of images for all millennium [Exp. #178].

**Stonewall Gourmet Collectibles, Teas, Foods** <http://www.stonewall.com> Visit our store in West Hollywood, online ordering, last delivery, and great [Exp. #178].

**TeamHayden.com** <http://www.hayden.ca.com> The largest single source of central vacuum information. Continually adding information and updates, including how to make your home healthier, reduce childhood asthma [Exp. #176].

**TECHNATICS** <http://www.technatics.com> Information technology and engineering company [Exp. #178].

**Terr's Special T's** <http://www.brookstone.com> A line of baby clothes and accessories [Exp. #176].

**TicketWeb, The Online Ticketing Alternative** <http://www.ticketweb.com> TicketWeb uses the Internet to sell low-cost tickets for events around the country [Exp. #176].

**Tree Co.** <http://www.treeco.com> Earth-friendly products for home and office including staining, recycled paper, etc. [Exp. #177].

**Tropical Shipping** <http://www.tropical.com> Tropical shipping information, schedules, online booking, and more [Exp. #177].

**UK Home Mail Conference Facilities** <http://www.ukhome.com> [Exp. #176].

**UComma Courtesy** <http://www.ucomma.com>

courtesy.com Multinational email service [Exp. #176].

**Venus Systems** <http://www.angelica.com/biz/bactan/index.html> Bioremediation products [Exp. #176].

**Video Imaging And Optical Products** <http://www.mars-cam.com> Monitors/panels, CMOS cameras, CCD cameras, board cameras, lenses, pinhole lenses, fiber-optic, and video capture systems [Exp. #176].

**Video Plus** <http://www.videoplus.com> Datasets of biographical videos including the ABE series and American Women of Achievement series [Exp. #176].

**Water Well Pump Supplies Wholesale** <http://www.sdwpump.com> Selling direct to the public [Exp. #176].

**Waterman Industries, Inc.** <http://www.watermanusa.com> Water control equipment and irrigation [Exp. #176].

**Welcome to QCI** <http://www.qci.net> QCI is an unbiased telecommunications and management company offering full spectrum expertise across voice, video and communications [Exp. #178].

**W Marketplace** <http://www.wmarketplace.com> Discount products for everyone. Also, open your own storefront and earn commission [Exp. #178].

**Wild Adventures** <http://www.wild-adventures.com> An all-in-one specialty imaging company specializing in producing all types of imaging products. Scanning, printing, CD production and more [Exp. #177].

**Within Worldwide** <http://www.within.com> [Exp. #176].

**Wood Architects** <http://www.woodarchitects.com> Specializing in commercial, public, and accessible building in Visual Imaging to provide digital computer color

graphics and designs for many applications [Exp. #176].

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**Yes Private Car, Inc.** <http://www.yesprivatcar.com> Airport ground transportation, limousines and more. From UK, Lapland, Newark airports, door to door services, radio dispatcher cars. Since 1988 serving on all in-state [Exp. #178].

**Yorba Park Medical Group** <http://www.yorbparkmedical.com> is one of the top medical groups in California, recognized for distinguished performance by the Medical Quality Commission and the Public Business Group on Health [Exp. #178].

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**Adviesburo van Groot** <http://www.hormandine.nl> restaurant Real estate in the Netherlands [Exp. #176].

**American Caribbean Real Estate** <http://www.americanreal.com> Caribbean real estate and commercial real estate in the Florida Keys [Exp. #178].

**Banco Borneo, Singapore** <http://www.banco.com> The best Borneo investment bank [Exp. #176].

**Bob Taylor's Dallas Real Estate Guide** <http://www.bob-taylor.com> Discover the historic background of Northeast Texas. Includes information on mortgage lender, program time buyer, home maintenance and more [Exp. #178].

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Mouse: PS2 2 button \$50

Sound Card: SB16 \$100

Modem: 56K \$100

Case: ATX Compact \$100

Monitor: 15" 28 N.I. \$150

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\* Intel 486X BOARD Ultra DMA33 AGP  
\* ATI 4MB SGRAM PC2TV  
\* 24 X IDE CD-ROM  
\* 16 PnP SOUND CARD  
\* 150 WATT SPEAKERS  
\* 56K FLEX MODEM W/VOICE  
\* 32 MB SDRAM  
\* 3.2 GB IDE HARD DRIVE  
\* 1.44 MB FLOPPY DRIVE  
\* PS2 104 KEYBOARD Win 95  
\* PS2 MOUSE 2 button  
\* DELUXE ATX COMPACT MID TOWER  
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RAM: 32MB \$100

Hard Drive: 3.2GB \$150

CD-ROM: 24X \$100

Speakers: 150W \$100

Keyboard: PS2 104 \$50

Mouse: PS2 2 button \$50

Sound Card: SB16 \$100

Modem: 56K \$100

Case: ATX Compact \$100

Monitor: 15" 28 N.I. \$150

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Support: 24 Hours

Training: 1 Day

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\* 2.1 GB IDE HARD DRIVE  
\* 1.44 MB FLOPPY DRIVE  
\* 104 KEYBOARD Win 95  
\* Compact/Mid Tower Case  
\* 3 button serial MOUSE  
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\* 16 Bit PnP Sound Card  
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Mouse: PS2 3 button \$50

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Case: ATX Compact \$100

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one who learns something from this site

will be well served. No matter how sophisticated

or whatever the background [Exp. #176]

### Consumer Credit Counseling Service Of The East Bay

<http://www.cccsbay.org> A nonprofit organization

dedicated to helping you help yourself regain

control of your finances [Exp. #177]

### Debes Realty

<http://www.debesrealty.com> Full-service real estate company,

serving Maui for nine years [Exp. #178]

### Desires Property Manage-

ment Limited <http://www.desires.com> The market

leader in property letting, rental and management in

Milton Keynes and Northampton [Exp. #179]

### Dump Debts

<http://www.dumpdebts.com/users/DumpDebts/> Stop all your

creditors without filing bankruptcy. See them if

they refuse to leave you alone! [Exp. #176]

### Empire Marketing

<http://www.empiremarketing.com> The most powerful world

wide financial system [Exp. #178]

### Financial Women International

<http://www.fwi.org> Includes information about the association, membership,

conferences, leadership forums, position statements,

management articles, and more [Exp. #176]

### Internet Fساد

<http://www.internetfsad.com> Information, a no-load,

performance-based tool for investors looking

for opportunities to invest in the Internet [Exp. #177]

### Marriage Bank

<http://www.marriagebank.com> Save money on home

# Guide

## mortgage payments [Exp. #178]

### Mr. Stock, Inc.

<http://www.mrstock.com> Online trading site to trade stocks,

options, and mutual funds with a personal touch [Exp. #178]

### Pacific Palisades

<http://www.palisadeshomes.com> Pacific Palisades real

estate information [Exp. #176]

### PBTK Online

<http://www.pbtk.com> CPA firm [Exp. #176]

### Petty M Butler Realty, Inc.

<http://www.pbtk.com> Internet advertising of PBR,

home listings, agents, and services [Exp. #178]

### Prudential Real Realty

<http://www.randvision.com> Rockland County's premier

real estate company [Exp. #177]

### Real Estate Buyers Agent

Council <http://www.rebac.net> Official and largest

directory of real estate buyers agents [Exp. #178]

### Real Estate Mega Mail

<http://www.megamail.com> Most comprehensive source for objective

real estate info [Exp. #178]

### Richard Card

<http://www.richardcard.com> View homes in Contra Costa

County area [Exp. #178]

### Seattle Area

<http://www.seattlearea.com> Two huge northwest real estate

databases [Exp. #176]

### Synergistics Research

Home Page <http://www.synnergistics.com> Financial services market

research organization [Exp. #176]

### WebDI

<http://www.webdi.com> Web-based Electronic Data

Interchange Service [Exp. #178]

### Welcome to Mainstreet-USA

<http://www.mainstreet-usa.com> Farm Credit

Services provides financial services to rural communities [Exp. #176]

### Yongosa Realty

<http://www.yongosa-realty.com> Save money on home

mortgage payments [Exp. #178]

Seoul designed with the expertise in mind [Exp. #178]

## LEGAL SERVICES

### Bankruptcy Los Angeles

<http://www.bklaw.com> Law Office of Mark J. Markus, handling all

bankruptcy representation in the Los Angeles area [Exp. #178]

### Law Offices of Alex A. Yarbrough

<http://www.yarbrough.com> Attorney and social security disability representative [Exp. #176]

### Legal.com

<http://www.legal.com> Friendly site with news and law related

resources for consumers, legal professionals and law students. Also shop online

for law books and legal forms [Exp. #177]

### Limited Liability Company

Web Site <http://www.llc.com> How to organize a new business as an LLC [Exp. #176]

### Richard J. Greenlee, Attorney at Law

<http://www.rjgreenlee.com> Copyright, trademark, licensing business, and transactional law

for the computer, entertainment, and publishing industries [Exp. #177]

### WordPerfect Headquarters

<http://www.wordperfect.com> WordPerfect tips, utilities, literary law office

training, productivity planning, and more [Exp. #178]

## EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

### Alliance

<http://www.alliance.com> Hispanic job posting and job search as well as resume posting and resume search services [Exp. #177]

### Career Database, Inc.

<http://www.careerdb.com> Career database with 100,000+ jobs as well as the world's largest online database

matching an individual's employment history to company job requirements and search criteria [Exp. #176]



# Online Guide

## Web Page Listings *continued.*

**Digital Station** <http://www.digitalstation.com>  
Covering computer and Internet-related employment, events, and news in the San Francisco Bay Area [Exp #176]

**Global Language Institute** <http://www.gli.org>  
Teaching English from students to business executives. [Exp #178]

**Internetskole II** <http://sta.vanger-attenblad.no/inter/skole/>  
Elementary high school (in Norwegian) [Exp #178]

**John Cabot University** <http://www.johncabot.edu>  
Offering study abroad programs and conferring Bachelor's degrees in Art History, Business Admin, Political Science, and English Lit [Exp #178]

**MBA Central** <http://www.mbacentral.com>  
Leading MBA recruiting service [Exp #178]

**Mr. Brain Teler** <http://members.tripod.com/~russ.mccorforator.htm>  
Live teachers online tutoring in mathematics, English, computer programming, history, writing, etc. [Exp #176]

**Pratt Resource Group, Inc.** <http://www.prattgroup.com>  
Pratt Resource Group, Inc. modules its executive search process offering customized services at an hourly fee basis, with no contingency. [Exp #178]

**Registrar** <http://www.registrar.com>  
Search engine registration Web site [Exp #178]

**Shop4Jobs** <http://www.shop4jobs.com>  
National job listings [Exp #178]

**Spanish Abroad, Inc.** <http://www.spanishabroad.com>  
Spanish immersion programs in various languages throughout Latin America and Spain [Exp #178]

**Spanish for Health Professionals** <http://www.sphhp.com>  
Spanish for Health Professionals [Exp #178]

language laboratory for doctors, dentists, nurses, psychologists, social workers, related professionals [Exp #178]

**Star Technology Group** <http://www.startechnology.com>  
Search firm [Exp #178]

**Consulting, Home Page** <http://www.scv.com>  
Providing computer consulting and permanent placement services [Exp #178]

**The Tutoring Center** <http://home.pacific.net/tutor/index.html>  
In math and science for junior high to college. [Exp #176]

**Union Job Clearinghouse** <http://www.unionjobs.com>  
Posting the open staffing and trades positions in organized labor that are accepting applications. [Exp #176]

**Washier Resources** <http://204.235.86.30>  
IT/IS candidate search. [Exp #178]

## ORGANIZATIONS

**4work.com** <http://www.4work.com>  
Helping non-profit recruit volunteers on the Internet. [Exp #176]

**A World For Children** <http://www.a-world-for-children.org>  
Non-profit child placing agency and emergency shelter. [Exp #178]

**Alameda County Waste Management Authority** <http://www.stopwaste.org>  
Recycling resources for Alameda County, CA and beyond, consulting valuable information about recycling in and around the San Francisco Bay Area [Exp #178]

**American Biomedical Group** <http://www.abg.com>  
Medical and scientific research and development [Exp #178]

**Bay Area Linux Users** <http://www.bayarealinux.org>  
Linux users in the San Francisco Bay Area [Exp #178]

**Canadian Network For The Advancement Of Research, Industry, And Education** <http://www.canet.ca>  
A not-for-profit organization that promotes

the advancement of the information Superhighway in Canada [Exp #178]

**Claremont Institute** <http://www.claremont.org>  
Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

**Diabetes Wisdom** <http://www.diabeteswisdom.com>  
Diabetes support groups, educational classes, and nutritional therapy. One-on-one with a CDE. [Exp #176]

**FAT: Fat And Terrific** <http://www.fatandterrific.com>  
Fat-positive resource and activities newsletter. Meetings third Saturdays of every month. [Exp #176]

**Foundation For Role Equity Education** <http://www.roleequity.org>  
Articles about nontraditional methods of achieving equity [Exp #176]

**FXI—Freeform On Expression** <http://www.fxionline.com>  
Articles about nontraditional methods of achieving equity [Exp #176]

**Geometric** <http://www.geometric.com>  
Articles about nontraditional methods of achieving equity [Exp #176]

**Jefferson Club: Technologists For Capitalism** <http://www.jeffersonclub.com>  
Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

**Linuz User Los Angeles (LULA)** <http://www.lula.org>  
Linux users in the San Francisco Bay Area [Exp #178]

**Los Angeles Chapter Of Internet Society** <http://www.losangeleschapter.org>  
Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

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Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

**Los Angeles Computer Society** <http://www.lacs.org>  
Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

**Los Angeles Macintosh Group** <http://www.lamg.org>  
Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

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Non-profit user group offers training programs, meetings, monthly magazine, employment, networking, and tech support [Exp #176]

**Sutter Lakeside Hospital** <http://www.sutterlake.org>  
Description of hospital services, community and job openings [Exp #178]

**TelEd '98** <http://telEd98.org>  
Seventh International Conference on Telecommunications and Multimedia in Education [Exp #178]

**Telegraph Hill Dwellers** <http://www.telegraphhill.org>  
A San Francisco neighborhood association with news about events, people, history [Exp #176]

**Unofficial Nintendo-64 Home Page** <http://www.nintendo64.org>  
Members only [Exp #176]

**Willowtek** <http://www.willowtek.org>  
Online resource system of the Willow Creek Association [Exp #178]

## PUBLICATIONS

**Aboriginal Independent Newspaper** <http://www.ainp.com>  
The Aboriginal Independent Newspaper is a self-determination project begun by a group of Nyoongar Aboriginal people in Western Australia [Exp #176]

**Anglo Area Shoppers Guide** <http://www.angloshopper.com>  
Weekly publication with online classifieds serving north-central Wisconsin [Exp #178]

**Bayani Magazine** <http://www.bayani.com>  
An online magazine of Filipino arts and culture [Exp #178]

**Bill Bradley Listening** <http://www.billbradley.com>  
A new monthly interactive column written by former US Senator Bill Bradley [Exp #176]

**Blithe House Quarterly** <http://www.blithehouse.com>  
A new monthly interactive column written by former US Senator Bill Bradley [Exp #176]

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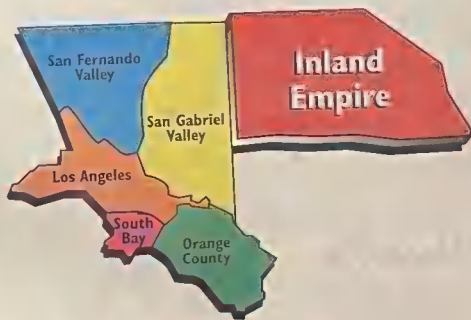
**Blithe House Quarterly** <http://www.blithehouse.com>  
A new monthly interactive column written by former US Senator Bill Bradley [Exp #176]

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A new monthly interactive column written by former US Senator Bill Bradley [Exp #176]

**Blithe House Quarterly** <http://www.blithehouse.com>  
A new monthly interactive column written by former US Senator Bill Bradley [Exp #176]

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Intel	Supernova	Intel	Intel	Intel	Intel
AXS \$115	TXP4 \$115	P5MMS98 \$135	TITAN TURBO A22 (S1573) \$115	ANCHORAGE \$119	P55XUB \$139
TXS \$119	TX97 \$139	P5MMA98 \$139	TOMCAT IV \$145	ATLANTA \$125	P55XU \$139
AH6 \$119	TX97-E \$139	P6SLA \$145	TOMCAT IV DUAL \$145	DAKOTA \$125	P55XUB \$139
	TX97-X \$139	P6DLE \$145	TIGER \$145	REDWOOD \$125	P55XUW \$139
	TX97-XE \$139	P6DLS \$145	TIGER 2 \$145		PILLS \$139
	P2L97-S \$139		THUNDER \$145		DPILL2 \$139

## CPU's & MEMORY

<b>200 MMX</b> \$119 INTEL PENTIUM-166MMX \$119 INTEL PENTIUM-233MMX \$139	<b>300 MMX</b> \$119 INTEL PENTIUM II-233MMX \$139 INTEL PENTIUM II-266MMX \$139 INTEL PENTIUM II-333MMX \$139	<b>AMD K6</b> \$159 AMD K6-166MMX \$119 AMD K6-200MMX \$119 AMD K6-266MMX \$139	<b>SDRAM DIMM</b> \$59 64MB 10ns SDRAM (32-chip) \$139 64MB 10ns SDRAM (8-chip) \$139 128MB 10ns SDRAM \$139 16MB 60ns EDO \$139 32MB 60ns EDO \$139
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## DRIVES & PERIPHERALS

<b>WESTERN DIGITAL</b> \$189 ULTRA DMA HD EIDE COMPATIBLE	<b>DIAMOND</b> \$149 VIPER AGP VIDEO CARD	<b>IDE</b> \$79 IDE
2.0GB ULTRA DMA \$129	STEALTH 3D 2000 PCI 3M \$119	<b>CREATIVE</b> \$59 SOUND BLASTER AWE64
3.0GB ULTRA DMA \$139	STEALTH 3D 2000 PCI 4M \$119	
4.0GB ULTRA DMA \$149	STEALTH II 5920 PCI 4M \$119	
5.0GB ULTRA DMA \$159	VIPER V330 PCI 4M \$119	
6.0GB ULTRA DMA \$169	STEALTH 3D 4000 AGP 4M \$119	
	STEALTH 3D 4000 AGP 8M \$119	

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# Online Guide

## Web Page Listings continued from page 158

**High On Adventure** <http://www.highonadventure.com>  
Online travel magazine evolved to thrill adventurous traveler [Exp #178]

**Jewish Heritage Online Magazine** <http://www.jewishheritage.com>  
This new, online magazine makes Jewish learning thoroughly accessible and enjoyable using the latest in interactive technology [Exp #177]

**LeoSearch & Southeast Asia Country** <http://www.angelire.com/calasscom>  
A Web directory for information on Laos and other Southeast Asia countries [Exp #176]

**Libby Halberstam's World** <http://www.libbyhalberstam.com>  
Pete winning author on prize about books, films, and life [Exp #178]

**Montana Magazine** <http://www.montanamag.com>  
Montana pictorial books direct from publisher in Helena, MT. [Exp #176]

**National Equine Online** <http://www.nationalequine.com>  
[Exp #178]

**Information And Communication Technology In Africa: A Bibliography Of Online Resources** <http://www.unipic.org/unipic/infocentral/online/bibliography.html> [Exp #176]

**Obesity Made Real Research News** <http://www.obesity-news.com>  
Online newsletter and Web site on obesity research. Copy may be available [Exp #178]

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**The Last Kalon** <http://www.jpc.net/asia/last.htm>  
The Last Kalon, a novel of the past and the future, by John Cort [Exp #177]

**Trans-Atlantic Online** <http://www.transatlantic.com>  
A comprehensive listing of national and international continuing medical education courses [Exp #177]

**TwoDop** <http://www.twodop.com>  
Publishers of twoDop.com, a Web site of poetry and books about dogs [Exp #176]

**uGROOM'd** <http://www.ugroom.com>  
The men's perspective on engagement, marriage and what follows [Exp #178]

**Watch** <http://www.watchme.net>  
International online watch trade magazine [Exp #178]

**Whitepapers With Attitude** <http://www.whitepaperswithattitude.com>  
A monthly newsletter for people who deploy enterprise groupware [Exp #176]

**Windows Online** <http://www.windowsonline.com>  
Windows Online (Exp #176)

**ODDS & ENDS**  
Advanced Kinology Concepts <http://www.oddsandends.com>  
Kinology Concepts (Exp #176)

**Shalom Holocaust Memorial Center** <http://www.shalomholocaust.com>  
Shalom Holocaust Memorial Center (Exp #178)

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**Lladro Porcelain, Spain** <http://www.accesstos.com/lladro>  
Lladro porcelain and Swarovski crystal [Exp #177]

**Alert Home Page** <http://www.alerthome.com>  
Emergency medical information and identification (IO) [Exp #176]

**Metalearning.com** <http://www.metalearning.com>  
Home for ideas, inspiration, and transforming support [Exp #178]

**Pigeons** <http://www.pigeons.com>  
Free photo brochure [Exp #176]

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**Radiant Productions** <http://www.radiantproductions.com>  
Seminars, private sessions, and audio [Exp #178]

**Island Sundae** <http://www.islandsundae.com>  
Exploration of the relationship between urban design and the Web [Exp #178]

**Investment Speculation** <http://www.investment.com>  
Investment Speculation (Exp #176)

**Investment Speculation** <http://www.investment.com>  
Investment Speculation (Exp #176)

**King & Queen Of Hearts** <http://www.kingandqueenofhearts.com>  
King & Queen Of Hearts (Exp #176)

**Korea Know** <http://www.koreaknow.com>  
Korea Know (Exp #176)

**Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction** <http://www.layered.com>  
Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction (Exp #176)

**Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction** <http://www.layered.com>  
Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction (Exp #176)

**Lladro Porcelain, Spain** <http://www.accesstos.com/lladro>  
Lladro porcelain and Swarovski crystal [Exp #177]

**Alert Home Page** <http://www.alerthome.com>  
Emergency medical information and identification (IO) [Exp #176]

**Metalearning.com** <http://www.metalearning.com>  
Home for ideas, inspiration, and transforming support [Exp #178]

**Pigeons** <http://www.pigeons.com>  
Free photo brochure [Exp #176]

**Pixel Photo** <http://www.pixelphoto.com>  
Pixel photo.com is a digital photography guide for advertisers, art directors, and production managers [Exp #176]

**Radiant Productions** <http://www.radiantproductions.com>  
Seminars, private sessions, and audio [Exp #178]

**Island Sundae** <http://www.islandsundae.com>  
Exploration of the relationship between urban design and the Web [Exp #178]

**Investment Speculation** <http://www.investment.com>  
Investment Speculation (Exp #176)

**Investment Speculation** <http://www.investment.com>  
Investment Speculation (Exp #176)

**King & Queen Of Hearts** <http://www.kingandqueenofhearts.com>  
King & Queen Of Hearts (Exp #176)

**Korea Know** <http://www.koreaknow.com>  
Korea Know (Exp #176)

**Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction** <http://www.layered.com>  
Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction (Exp #176)

**Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction** <http://www.layered.com>  
Layered Scenic Surgery & Reconstruction (Exp #176)

**Chiam Chang's Gallery** <http://www.chiamchang.com>  
Chiam Chang's Gallery (Exp #178)

**Christ Taylor's Page** <http://www.christtaylor.com>  
Christ Taylor's Page (Exp #178)

**Christ's Page** <http://www.christspage.com>  
Christ's Page (Exp #178)

**Computer and Win95** <http://www.computerandwin95.com>  
Computer and Win95 (Exp #178)

**Cool Stuff** <http://www.coolstuff.com>  
Cool Stuff (Exp #178)

**Cool Stuff** <http://www.coolstuff.com>  
Cool Stuff (Exp #178)

**Daniel Contreras Home Page** <http://www.danielcontreras.com>  
Daniel Contreras Home Page (Exp #178)

**Daniel Contreras Home Page** <http://www.danielcontreras.com>  
Daniel Contreras Home Page (Exp #178)

**Eric's Kitylark** <http://www.kitylark.com>  
Eric's Kitylark (Exp #178)

**Eric's Kitylark** <http://www.kitylark.com>  
Eric's Kitylark (Exp #178)

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Daniel Contreras Home Page (Exp #178)

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**Eric's Kitylark** <http://www.kitylark.com>  
Eric's Kitylark (Exp #178)

**Eric's Kitylark** <http://www.kitylark.com>  
Eric's Kitylark (Exp #178)







# Online Guide

## Web Page Listings *continued*

**DVD Source** <http://www.dvd-source.com> Discounted DVD movies with an online catalog and searchable database [Exp #176]

**Dystopia Daily Cartoon** <http://www.dystopiadaily.com> Overlaid funny daily cartoons penned by a confessed mental defective. For those suffering from Far Side withdrawal. Dystopia is a cartoon methadone clinic. [Exp #178]

**Earthquake City** <http://members.tripod.com/~eqcity/index.htm> Earthquake City 885 Computers By Candlelight (radio show), Chrome Oxide music collector pages, lots of links. [Exp #176]

**EcoChoices Community** <http://www.livewholesale.com> Created to help personal development. Over 400 message boards. Eco-Homes gallery, healthy coupons, political ballot [Exp #178]

**Empire Cigar Company** <http://www.empirecigar.com> The finest in cigars and cigar-related accessories [Exp #176]

**Production Advertising Television Commercial** <http://www.dropshot.com> Virtual showcase [Exp #176]

**Fort Payne Alabama City Limits** <http://www.fortpayne.com> Great info and pictures of the scenic [Exp #177]

**Ghosts Of The Prairie** <http://www.prairieghosts.com> Discover the haunted [Exp #178]

**Go Camping America** <http://www.go-camping.com> Your full hook-up in the world [Exp #178]

**Gold Fish Casino** <http://www.goldfishcasino.com> Ultimate online [Exp #176]

blog experience. [Exp #176]

**Gordie** <http://www.gordieshow.com> The complete direct Gordie Howe collectibles [Exp #178]

**Green Theme International Home Exchange Holidays** <http://www.green-theme.com> Home exchange holidays for economical vacations and environmentally friendly travel [Exp #178]

**The Hilmens** <http://www.rootsworld.com/hilmens/> The Hilmens, a music group [Exp #176]

**HOF Memorabilia** <http://www.hofmemorabilia.com> Specializing in authentic autographed sports memorabilia [Exp #176]

**Hotels And Condos, Reservations Service For The Cayman Islands** <http://www.caymanislands.com> Caribbean Dreams—destination management and reservations [Exp #176]

**Israel Tour Connection LLC** <http://www.israel-tour.com> Bar/Bat Mitzvah Israel tour experts [Exp #178]

**J & S Ranch** <http://www.jandsranch.com> A premier horse boarding, training and facility [Exp #176]

**Jason's MUMC Home Page** <http://www.mumc.net> <http://www.mumc.net> MUMC MUMC is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**K2 Mobile Entertainment Services** <http://www.k2mobile.com> <http://www.k2mobile.com> K2MOBILE K2MOBILE is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**Let's Eat** <http://www.lets-eat.com> <http://www.lets-eat.com> Let's Eat is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**Main Create Online** <http://www.createonline.com> [Exp #176]

**com Main Events** is the largest boxing promotional firms in the world [Exp #176]

**Mammolhai** <http://www.mammoth-net.com> A vacation and holiday resource for condominium rentals in the Mammoth Lakes, CA region [Exp #177]

**Manitoba Canada's Premier Fly-In Fishing Lodge And Outpost** <http://www.fishingmanitoba.com> We offer you areas which have never been sport fished before [Exp #177]

**Maui Island Currents** <http://www.islandcurrents.com> Least of regularly updated information and culture, dining, activities, and more [Exp #176]

**Mexico Travel Guide** <http://www.go2mexico.com> The Mexico Travel Guide gives you the resources to plan, enjoy, and make the best of your vacation and investment in Mexico with [Exp #176]

**Milan Rugby Official Web Site** <http://www.milanrugby.com> The Milan Amatori Rugby S.r.l. official Web site [Exp #177]

**Mimiras Cruises** <http://www.mimiras.com> Mimiras Cruises is Brisbane, Australia, has a long and proud tradition of service to the people of Brisbane and to the many thousands of visitors who enjoy our lovely city every year [Exp #176]

**Modified** <http://www.modified.com> The world's most modified [Exp #177]

**Montenegro Italian Paradise** <http://www.monte-negro.com> <http://www.monte-negro.com> Montenegro Italian Paradise is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**MUSIC MAYHEM** <http://www.musicmayhem.com> <http://www.musicmayhem.com> MUSIC MAYHEM is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**Never Forget Against Lifetime Reminder Service** <http://www.neverforget.com> <http://www.neverforget.com> Never Forget Against Lifetime Reminder Service is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**Nothing But Golf** <http://www.nothingbutgolf.com> Golf contests, trivia, discussions, jokes, tournaments, schedules, rules, resources, handicaps, Hole-In-One registry, and more [Exp #176]

**Online Sports League Information And Communication Manager** <http://www.sportsleague.com> A faster, easier, and more efficient way of managing your sports league [Exp #176]

**Orange County Info** <http://www.orangecounty.com> This site is updated daily and has Orange County specific info on entertainment, arts, news, etc. [Exp #176]

**Orchid13** <http://www.orchid13.com> Photography, poetry, weird and unusual, files, David Bowie page [Exp #176]

**P&S Records** <http://www.pandsrecords.com> Princess and Sals Records, the internet's only full-service record company [Exp #176]

**Paradise Cruises & Tours** <http://www.paradisecruises.com> A family owned and operated travel agency specializing in tours, cruises, honeymoons [Exp #178]

**PASS Hockey enterprises, Inc.** <http://www.passhockey.com> Hockey development [Exp #176]

**Perfect Harmony** <http://www.madrecords.com> <http://www.madrecords.com> Perfect Harmony is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**Perry Kart Comedy Pages** <http://www.perrykart.com> <http://www.perrykart.com> Perry Kart Comedy Pages is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**PLAS.COM** <http://www.plas.com> <http://www.plas.com> PLAS.COM is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #176]

**Pleasures Of The Table** <http://www.dog.com> Fine cuisine, luxury travel, fine wine, celebrity chefs [Exp #178]

**RENT—An Unofficial Site** <http://www.life.com> The unofficial Rent site, designed by a devoted fan [Exp #178]

**Round Flat Records** <http://www.roundflat.com> [Exp #176]

**City Athletics Online** <http://www.wingscan.com> Featuring Ling Wood Chuan Wing Chungkung Fu, Balmikaw Arms, kickboxing, and boxing [Exp #176]

**SmokesOnline** <http://www.smokesonline.com> Your internet resource for planning a Smoky Mountain vacation [Exp #176]

**SongHits** <http://www.songhits.com> Full-length hit songs in streaming RealAudio [Exp #176]

**Sound Techniques Television** <http://www.soundtechniques.com> <http://www.soundtechniques.com> Sound Techniques Television is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #177]

**Space Adventures Web** <http://www.spaceadventures.com> Your Space travel agency, bringing space tourism to the world [Exp #176]

**Spacecraft Model Kits** <http://www.spacecraftmodelkits.com> <http://www.spacecraftmodelkits.com> Spacecraft Model Kits is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #176]

**SportsExtra** <http://www.sportsextra.com> Up-to-the-minute sports news, information [Exp #178]

**Star Wars: Episode I** <http://www.starwars.com> <http://www.starwars.com> Star Wars: Episode I is a live, multi-media destination for the people of the Middle East [Exp #176]

**Saribikr: Cycling On Water** <http://www.saribikr.com> [Exp #176]

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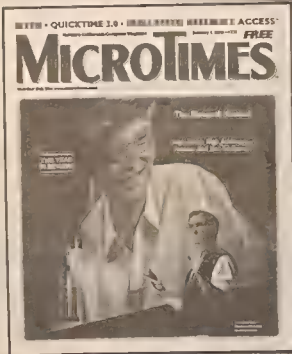
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# MICROTIMES









## WORK STATIONS

16M • 2.0G • 14"

### INTEL Pent.

133 MHz \$519  
166 MHz \$539

### CYRIX

111K M2-200 \$499

### AMD

K6-166 \$519  
K6-233 \$599

32x Multimedia Kit \$89  
Win95 Full ver. SR2 \$99

- VX Pro chipset system board
- 512K Sync. cache
- PCI dual EIDE controllers w/ UATA support
- 16 MB EDO RAM
- 3 1/4" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 2 0 GB EIDE UATA Hard Drive
- 64 BIT Graphics accelerator 1MB (Exp. to 2MB)
- 14" SVGA Monitor N1 28 D P
- Mini-Tower case w/ display & 230W PS
- Win 95 104 KB, Hi-res mouse & mouse pad

## HOME SYSTEMS

32M • 24X • 250 • 14" • 33.6K

### INTEL Pent.

111K 166 MHz \$739  
MMX 200 MHz \$769  
K 233 MHz \$819

### AMD

K6-166 \$719  
K6 MMX 200 \$739  
MMX 233 \$789

Win95 Full ver. SR2

- INTEL Triton TX chipset system board
- 512K Sync. cache
- PCI dual EIDE controllers w/ UATA support
- 32 MB EDO RAM
- 3 1/4" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 2 5 GB EIDE UATA Hard Drive
- 64 BIT Graphics accelerator 2MB w/ MPEG
- 24X CD-ROM, 16 bit Stereo Card, Speakers
- 33.6 KBPS Internal Modem
- 14" SVGA Monitor N1 28 D P
- Mini-Tower case w/ display & 230W PS
- Win 95 104 KB, Hi-res mouse & mouse pad
- Multimedia software w/ Encyclopedia

## OFFICE SYSTEMS

32M • 24X • 4.0G • 15" • 56K

### INTEL Pent.

MMX 166 MHz \$859  
MMX 200 MHz \$879  
MMX 233 MHz \$939

### AMD

K6 MMX 200 \$859  
K6 233 \$899

Internal Zip drive Add \$99  
Win95 Full ver. SR2 \$99

- INTEL Triton TX chipset system board
- 512K Sync. cache
- PCI dual EIDE controllers w/ UATA support
- 32 MB EDO RAM
- 3 1/4" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 4 0 GB EIDE UATA Hard Drive
- Diamond BIT Graphics w/ MPEG
- 24X CD-ROM, 16 bit Stereo Card, Speakers
- KBPS Internal Modem w/ Voice
- 15" SVGA Monitor N1 28 D P
- Mid-Tower case w/ display & 230W PS
- Win 95 104 KB, Hi-res mouse & mouse pad

## GRAPHICS SYSTEMS

32M • 32X • 6.4G • 17" • 56K

### INTEL Pent.

MMX 200 MHz \$1,399  
233 MHz \$1,479  
PII 233 MHz \$1,629  
PII 266 MHz \$1,739  
PII 300 MHz \$1,899

### AMD

MMX 200 \$1,359  
K6 233 \$1,389

Internal Zip drive Add \$99  
Win95 Full ver. SR2 \$99

- Intel Triton TX443 LX system board
- 512K pipeline cache
- PCI Dual EIDE controllers w/ UATA support
- 32 MB EDO RAM
- 3 1/4" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 4 0 GB EIDE UATA Hard Drive
- Diamond 3D II w/ 4 SGRAM
- 32X CD-ROM
- SB AWES4 Sound Card, 160W Speakers
- 56 KBPS Internal Modem w/ Voice
- 17" SVGA CTK D P N1 Monitor
- Mid-Tower case w/ 250W PS & dual fans
- Keytronic 104 KB, Logitech mouse & pad

## CAD / NT SYSTEMS

64M • 16X • 8.4G • 17" • 56K

### INTEL Pent.

PII 233 MHz \$2,099  
PII 266 MHz \$2,249  
PII 300 MHz \$2,389  
PII 333 MHz \$2,599

Internal Zip drive Add \$99  
NT 9500000000 \$169

- Intel Triton M44 LX system board
- 512K pipeline cache
- (Shuttle / Titan / Asus / Super Micro)
- PCI Dual EIDE Controllers w/ UATA support
- 64 MB Super Fast SDRAM
- 3 1/4" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 8 4 GB UATA Hard Drive
- Matrix Millennium II w/ 8 MB SDRAM
- 32X CD-ROM, SB AWES4 Card, 160W Speakers
- 56 KBPS Internal Modem
- 17" SVGA MAG DUT700 NEC A700 Monitor
- Mid-Tower case w/ 250W PS & dual fans
- Keytronic 104 KB, Logitech mouse & pad

## FILE / WEB SERVER

128M • 18X • 9.0G • 15"

### INTEL Pent.

PII 266 MHz \$2,849  
PII 300 MHz \$2,999  
PII 333 MHz \$3,239

### DUAL

PII 266 MHz \$3,449  
PII 300 MHz \$3,729  
PII 333 MHz \$4,169

NT 9500000000 \$999  
Novell 4.11 10 User Add \$1195

- Intel 443 LX Chipset system board
- (Shuttle / Titan / Asus / Super Micro)
- 3 1/4" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 9 0 GB Ultra Wide SCSI Hard Drive
- Adaptec 2940 UW SCSI controller
- Diamond 3D 2000 Pro w/ 2 MB EDO RAM
- Heavy duty full tower w/ 300W PS ATX
- Keytronic 104 keyboard
- Logitech Duxxa 3 mouse
- 15" SVGA Monitor N1 D P
- Toshiba SCSI CD-ROM
- HP 1 Seagate 418 GB SCSI Tape backup
- Intel 10/100 MBPS PCI R445 Network Card

## HEWLETT PACKARD SYSTEMS

Ventura Ve4

\$929

Ventura VL5

\$1,079

Brio 8172

\$1,199

Brio 8037

\$1,339

KayakXA

\$1,639

KayakXA

\$2,669

Kayak XU

\$4,679

NT 4.0 10 User Add \$595  
Novell 4.11 10 User Add \$1195

Processor 166 MMAX 2.1 GB 16 MB ISA/PCI W/F/W/ Win95  
Processor 200 MMAX 2.5 GB 16 MB ISA/PCI W/F/W/ Win95

Processor 166 MMAX 2.1 GB 16 MB ISA/PCI Win95  
Processor 166 MMAX 2.1 GB 16 MB ISA/PCI Win95 16x CD  
Processor 233 MMAX 3.0 GB 32 MB ISA/PCI 24x CD

Processor II 233 MMAX 2.5 GB 16 MB ISA/PCI Win95 16x CD  
Processor II 266 MMAX 2.1 GB 16 MB ISA/PCI NT 4.0 24x CD Ethernet

Dual Pentium II 300 32x CD Ethernet 4 5 GB 64 MB ISA/PCI NT 4.0



## HP / IBM NET SERVERS

E45 \$1,569

E45 \$1,879

E45 \$1,789

E45 \$2,099

LH \$5,099

LH \$7,899

IBM

Server 325 \$3,399

Server 330 \$3,999

32 MB no hard drive SCSI controller

CD-ROM NIC

4.3 MB FSCSI Hard Drive

SCSI controller, SCSI NIC

As above except w/ 4.3 MB FSCSI Hard Drive

Pro-200, 64 MB UW SCSI controller

CD-ROM, NIC

Pro-200, 64 MB RAID controller

CD-ROM, NIC

PII 233 32 MB, 4 1 GB SCSI Hard Drive

SCSI CD-ROM, NIC

PII-233 64 MB no hard drive, SCSI RAID controller

SCSI CD-ROM, NIC Not swappable



# Product Spotlight

## Updates

## Product Announcements

Multi-Ad Services, Inc. introduced Creator2, the first software for Mac users to combine layout and design capabilities in one package. (\$649) Multi-Ad Services, Inc. 1720 W. Develer Dr., Peoria, IL 61605 1-800-245-9278 or [www.creator2multiad.com](http://www.creator2multiad.com)

GoldMine Software Corp., a contact manager for workgroups has introduced 8 new products into its product family. GoldMine 4.0 client/server for SQL databases and GoldMine 4.0 dBase IV Goldmine Software Corp., 17383 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 301, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. [www.goldminecorp.com](http://www.goldminecorp.com)

Netscape Communications Corp. presents Netscape Application Server 2.0 An Internet application server for developing business-critical applications on Internet and ExtraneXt. \$25,000 CPU on the Windows NT \$35,000 per CPU on the Sun Solaris, HP-UX, and IRIX. Graphics IRDX operating environment. Netscape Communications Corp. [www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com), or (415)937-3777

MC Research Ltd. introduced LinkUP! II as QuickPress extension that includes full support for relational databases, catalogs publishing functionality, usage analysis and more. MC Research Ltd., Ste. A, Square House, 81-87 High St., Baffin, Essex CM12 1UK or [www.mcres.co.uk](http://www.mcres.co.uk)

Computer Corp. introduced a special offer to loyal owners of an IBM compatible PC or Mac-compatible system. PowerPC 750 Processor card available for \$1,195 (street suggested). Computer Corp. 1-800-232-1111 or [www.mvcc.com](http://www.mvcc.com)

Command Software Systems, Inc. announced AntiVirus 9.000, an individual virus removal system. Available on Windows 95 or Macintosh. (\$49.95) Command Software Systems, Inc. 1061 E. Broadway Rd., Ste. 300, Jupiter, FL 33477 1-800-413-9147 or [www.command.com](http://www.command.com)

AdKnowledge, Inc. introduced ClickWise II the newest version of its management software for Web sites. For sites serving more than 10,000 ads per day, annual licenses start at \$5,000. Available in the AdKnowledge Web site: [www.adknowledge.com](http://www.adknowledge.com)

Interstar Technologies released Lightning FAX II for NT. Whether your needs are small or you are looking for a high-volume, enterprise-wide fax server solution. Lightning FAX 5 can fill that gap. Ten-pack license. \$524. Interstar Technologies, 5835 Verdun Ave., Ste. 302, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3H 1M1 (514)766-1668, [www.faxserver.com](http://www.faxserver.com)

Voice Technologies Group, Inc. has announced the release of PhoneCetera version 2.0. It's a low-cost plug-in PC Solution for enhancing the productivity of the SOHO worker. Voice Technologies Group, Inc., 2350 North Forest Rd., Buffalo, NY 14068-1295 (716)689-4700, or [www.vtg.com](http://www.vtg.com)

Pacestar Software has released version 3.0 of its EDGE Diagrammer package for Windows 95 and NT. It's a step towards Pacestar's goal of simplifying and drawing 80 diagrams and flowcharts. (\$129.95) in a free 30-day trial—copies can be downloaded from [www.pacestar.com](http://www.pacestar.com). Pacestar Software P.O. Box 51974, Phoenix, AZ 85076-1974 or (602)893-3046

SpaceWorks, Inc. presented its OrderManager V.3.0. The award-winning electronic commerce solution optimizes the online sales process for FORTUNE 1000 companies. (\$100,000-250,000) SpaceWorks, Inc. 101-10000 Ave. (Ste. 300) or [www.spaceworks.com](http://www.spaceworks.com)

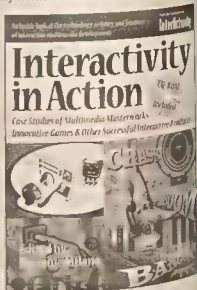
Anavare Software, Inc. announced its final release of CoolCat 4.0. Designed for business and Web designers. (\$95) Anavare Software, Inc. 1200 Island N., Ste. 220, Newport Beach, CA 92661 (714)350-7265, or <http://www.anavare.com>

## Books

### Interactivity in Action

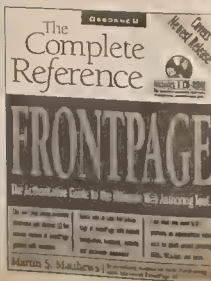
*Interactivity in Action: Case Studies of Multimedia Masterworks, Innovative Games & Other Successful Interactive Products* tells how some of today's leading developers

have overcome technical, artistic, and financial obstacles to create innovative interactive products. This book and two companion CD-ROMs provide detailed how information on the tools and techniques used, as well as insights on the creative challenges involved. Edited by Dominic Milano, *Interactivity in Action* offers specific case studies exploring a wide range of interactive products—including games, Web sites, children's educational CD-ROMs, interactive comic books, online soap operas, corporate training courses, and more. (\$39.95) Miller Freeman Books, 6600 Sausalito Way, Gilroy, CA 95020 1-800-848-5594 [www.books.mif.com](http://www.books.mif.com)



### FrontPage 98: The Complete Reference

*FrontPage 98: The Complete Reference* is a comprehensive tutorial, reference, and CD-ROM toolkit for the latest version of Microsoft's Web publishing application. The book guides users through everything from basic page layout to building highly interactive Web sites complete with databases, forms, graphics, and special effects. In addition, the book moves beyond basic Web site cre-





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- 80-Watt Stereo Speakers
- Mid-Tower w/230 Watts
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- Hi-Resolution Mouse
- MS Windows 95 w/3CDs
- 14" SVGA .28 DP N Monitor

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Pentium® 200 MMX .....\$769  
Pentium® 233 MMX .....\$849

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- Intel 440 LX Chipset M/B
- 512K L2 Cache
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- 3.5" 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- PCI 64-Bit w/2MB MPEG
- 24X CD-ROM
- 32 PnP 3D Sound Card
- Amplified Stereo Speakers
- Mid-Tower ATX Case
- 104 Key Win 95 Keyboard
- Hi-Resolution Mouse
- MS Windows 95 w/3CDs
- (Monitor Not Included)

Pentium® II 233 MHz.....\$949  
Pentium® II 266 MHX ..\$1049  
Pentium® II 300 MHX ..\$1199  
Pentium® II 333 MHX ..\$1399

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- Intel 440 LX Chipset M/B
- 512K L2 Cache
- 64MB SDRAM, 10ns
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- 3.5" 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- AGP Video Card w/4MB
- 24X CD-ROM
- SB AWE 64 PnP Sound Card
- Amplified Stereo Speakers
- Mid-Tower ATX Case
- 104 Key Win 95 Keyboard
- Hi-Resolution Mouse
- MS Windows 95 w/3CDs
- 56K Fax Modem w/Voice
- (Monitor Not Included)

Pentium® II 233 MMX ..\$1269  
Pentium® II 266 MMX ..\$1369  
Pentium® II 300 MMX ..\$1519  
Pentium® II 333 MMX ..\$1719

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200 GS 17" 25	615
500 PS 21" 25	1595
VIEWSONIC	
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E771 17" 27	399
P775 17" 25	519
G790 19" 26	749
G810 21" 25	999
MAG	
G2530 15" 26	\$235
D7070 17" 26	\$445
Q3600 19" 26	\$685
OTHERS	
SVGA 15" 28	\$119
SVGA 15" 28	165
SVGA 17" 28	305

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6.4GB ULTRA	229
8.4GB ULTRA	289
WESTERN DIGITAL	
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5.1GB ULTRA	195
6.4GB ULTRA	240
IBM	
6.4GB ULTRA	\$245
8.4GB ULTRA	295
4.3GB UW SCSI-3	260

### CPU

PENTIUM® II 233MHz	\$275
PENTIUM® II 266MHz	375
PENTIUM® II 300MHz	525
PENTIUM® II 333MHz	725
PENTIUM® 166 MMX	105
PENTIUM® 200 MMX	125
PENTIUM® 233 MMX	195

### MEMORY

16MB EDO RAM	\$30
32MB EDO RAM	60
32MB SD RAM	60

### VIDEO CARDS

ATI GL Pro	
8MB	\$185
ATI In-Wonder w/4MB	145
ATI Radeon II	
AGP/PCI	245
Xpert® Play 8MB SGRAM AGP	185

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EPSON Stylus	
EPSON Stylus	310
USRobotics 56K w/Voice	120
33.6 / 56K w/Voice	

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### Micro Infantry Series

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- 1.6 GB Enhanced IDE HARD DRIVE
- 64 Bit PCI W/2MB 166MHz SDRAM
- 15" 28 DIGITAL 1280 x 1024 Monitor
- 6X EIDE CDR/DVD Drive
- ESS 16 Bit Sound Card
- 33600 Int'l Fax Modem W/Voice
- Hi Fi Speaker
- 97 CD TITLES
- 104 keys Enhanced Keyboard & Hi Mouse
- Mid Tower Case
- Microsoft Windows 95 (OS/2)

PENTIUM 150MHZ	\$779
PENTIUM 166MHZ	\$809

### Micro Conquest Series

- Intel Pentium® Processor W/Heat Sink and Fan
- Intel 82430VX Chipset Motherboard
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- 3.5" 2GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- Diamond Stealth 3D 2000 W/4MB DRAM
- Card: 17" 28 DIGITAL Monitor 1280 x 1024
- 24X IDE CDROM Drive
- Soud Blaster AW6 64 (Value) Sound Card
- 100% Int'l Fax Modem W/Voice
- Surround Speaker W/Sub Woofer
- 104 Keys Enhanced Keyboard & Hi Res Mouse
- Mid Tower Case
- Microsoft Windows 95 (OSR2)
- Microsoft Home Bundle



PENTIUM 166MHZ (MMX)	\$1269
PENTIUM 200MHZ (MMX)	\$1329

### Micro Explorer Series

- Intel Pentium III Processor W/512K L2 Cache
- Intel PD40CFX (Portland) Motherboard
- 64MB EDO RAM 60ns
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- 4.3GB UW SCSI III HARD DRIVE
- Adaptec 2940 UW SCSI Controller
- Iomega Zip Drive (External Parallel)
- Matrox Millennium I W/4MB W/RAM
- Panasonic V50 17" 27 DIGITAL Monitor 1280 x 1024
- 16X SCSI II CDROM Drive
- Build in Yamaha 16 bit Sound Card
- 240 Watt Speaker
- 55600 Intel i Fax Modem W/Voice
- MS Keyboard & PS2 Mouse
- Mid Tower Case (ATX FF)
- Microsoft Windows 95 (OSR II)
- Microsoft Home Bundle

PENTIUM II 233MHZ	\$2479
PENTIUM II 266MHZ	\$2599

### Micro Conquest Series

- Intel 82430TX Chipset Motherboard
- On Board 512K Pipeline Burst Cache
- 32MB SDRAM RAM 60ns
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 4.3GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- Comega Zip Drive (External Parallel)
- Matrix Mystique 220 PCI w/4MB SGRAM
- CMTX 17" 26 1280X1024 Digital Monitor
- Toshiba 6028 24X  CDROM Drive
- Sound Blast™ AW664 Value Sound Card
- Yamaha M15 Special Set
- \$6600 Intel Fax Modem w/Voice
- 104 Keys Enhanced Keyboard & Hi Res Mouse
- Mid Tower Case
-  Windows 95 (OSR2)
- Microsoft Home Bundle

PENTIUM 166MHZ (MMX)	\$1559
PENTIUM 200MHZ (MMX)	\$1619
PENTIUM 233MHZ (MMX)	\$1689

### Micro Crusaders Series

- Intel Pentium Processor W/Heat Sink and Fan
- Intel 82430JX Cache (ps2) Motherboard
- On Board 512K Pipeline Burst Cache
- 32MB SDRAM 60ns
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HARD DRIVE
- (omega Zip Drive (External Parallel))
- Matrox Mystique 200 PCI W/4MB SGRAM
- Reflex PX200 (C/D-OSM) 17" 26 1600 x 1280
- Toshiba PX200 DVD W/MPECC II Decoding Card
- Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card
- Yamaha V-MP50 S1 Speaker Set
- 56000 Int'l Fax Modem W/Voice
- 104 Keys Enhanced Keyboard II Hi Res Mouse
- Mid Tower Case
- Microsoft Windows 95 (OS/2)
- Microsoft Home Bundle

PENTIUM 166MHZ (MMX)	\$1809
PENTIUM 200MHZ (MMX)	\$1869
PENTIUM 233MHZ (MMX)	\$1939
AMD K6 PR11 200 MHZ	\$1859
AMD K6 PR11 233 MHZ	\$1969

### Micro Explorer II Series

- Intel AT440LX (ATLANTA) Motherboard
- Intel Pentium II Processor W/512K L2 Cache
- 64MB SDRAM
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 6.4 GB Ultra ATA HARD DRIVE
- Iomega Zip Drive (External Parallel)
- AMB 486RAM (ASP Version)
- Panasonic 370 17" 67 CM DIGITAL Monitor 1280 X 1024
- Toshiba 240 5.25" CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster ES1644 Value Sound Card
- 55600 InPex Fax Modem W/Voice
- Surround Speaker W/Sub Woofer
- Microsoft Keyboard & PS2 Mouse
- Mid Tower Case (ATX FF)
- Microsoft Windows 95 (OSR II)
- Microsoft Home Bundle

PENTIUM II 300MHZ \$2559

...All systems provide one year parts & Three years labor. 72 hours Burn-in testing to insure all the systems become integrity & reliability.

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## MONITORS

• CANTO 105A 17 25a	5 181	• REFUGIO 677A 17 25a	5 185
• CANTO 105B 17 25a	5 182	• REFUGIO 677B 17 25a	5 186
• CANTO 105C 17 25a	5 183	• REFUGIO 677C 17 25a	5 187
• CANTO 105D 17 25a	5 184	• REFUGIO 677D 17 25a	5 188
• CANTO 105E 17 25a	5 185	• REFUGIO 677E 17 25a	5 189
• CANTO 105F 17 25a	5 186	• REFUGIO 677F 17 25a	5 190
• CANTO 105G 17 25a	5 187	• REFUGIO 677G 17 25a	5 191
• CANTO 105H 17 25a	5 188	• REFUGIO 677H 17 25a	5 192
• CANTO 105I 17 25a	5 189	• REFUGIO 677I 17 25a	5 193
• CANTO 105J 17 25a	5 190	• REFUGIO 677J 17 25a	5 194
• CANTO 105K 17 25a	5 191	• REFUGIO 677K 17 25a	5 195
• CANTO 105L 17 25a	5 192	• REFUGIO 677L 17 25a	5 196
• CANTO 105M 17 25a	5 193	• REFUGIO 677M 17 25a	5 197
• CANTO 105N 17 25a	5 194	• REFUGIO 677N 17 25a	5 198
• CANTO 105O 17 25a	5 195	• REFUGIO 677O 17 25a	5 199
• CANTO 105P 17 25a	5 196	• REFUGIO 677P 17 25a	5 200
• CANTO 105Q 17 25a	5 197	• REFUGIO 677Q 17 25a	5 201
• CANTO 105R 17 25a	5 198	• REFUGIO 677R 17 25a	5 202
• CANTO 105S 17 25a	5 199	• REFUGIO 677S 17 25a	5 203
• CANTO 105T 17 25a	5 200	• REFUGIO 677T 17 25a	5 204
• CANTO 105U 17 25a	5 201	• REFUGIO 677U 17 25a	5 205
• CANTO 105V 17 25a	5 202	• REFUGIO 677V 17 25a	5 206
• CANTO 105W 17 25a	5 203	• REFUGIO 677W 17 25a	5 207
• CANTO 105X 17 25a	5 204	• REFUGIO 677X 17 25a	5 208
• CANTO 105Y 17 25a	5 205	• REFUGIO 677Y 17 25a	5 209
• CANTO 105Z 17 25a	5 206	• REFUGIO 677Z 17 25a	5 210

## VIDEO CARDS

[illegible]



# Product Spotlight

## Product Announcements continued from page 100

ation and shows how to use HTML with FrontPage, set-up an intranet site, manage Internet and intranet security, and publish and promote a Web site. The CD-ROM includes applications, utilities, Java, and VB scripts, files used in the book, a complete HTML reference, and other useful tools. The book offers detailed instructions on using the CD and installing FrontPage in separate appendices. (\$39.99) Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2600 Tenth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (510)549-6600, 1-800-262-4792. [www.osborne.com](http://www.osborne.com)

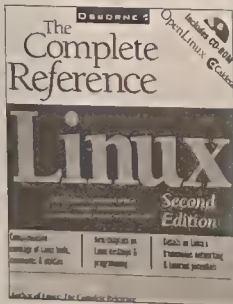
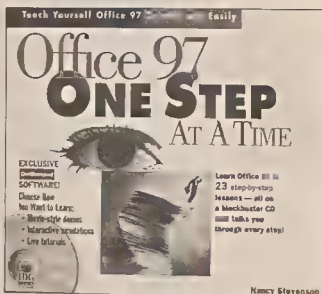
### Linux: The Complete Reference, Second Edition

The completely revised and updated version of *Linux: The Complete Reference* includes new chapters on GUI desktops, Linux programming, and document processing. The book covers every Linux task, from obtaining, installing, and configuring Linux on stand-alone PCs and networks to configuring Internet servers. As a bonus the book comes with a CD-ROM that features a free, full-featured version of OpenLinux by Caldera which includes a full set of easily installed and configured Linux applications for graphics, communications, publishing and editing. The CD-ROM also includes Apache Web server that automatically installs all the figures when OpenLinux is installed. (\$49.99) Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2600 Tenth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (510)549-6600, 1-800-262-4792. [www.osborne.com](http://www.osborne.com)

### One Step At A Time

IDG Books launched a new series called *One Step At A Time*, aimed at the "serious beginner"—from individuals in small businesses to educators and home computer users. Chapter goals are stated before each lesson and a stop-

watch icon shows the amount of time the reader will need to complete the lesson. Throughout these books, screen shots are next to the text and lesson steps to help readers visualize a process or feature more clearly.



Skills Challenge at the end of each chapter give users hands-on experience reviewing all the skills presented in the lesson. Every book includes On-Demand interactive learning software from PTS Learning Systems, that offers three levels of interaction: demo mode, a virtual version of the application; teacher mode, complete with exercises; concurrent mode, that works with real documents in the actual program. The series includes titles that cover Access 97, Excel 97,

Word 97, Office 97, Outlook 97, and Internet Explorer 4. (\$29.99) IDG Books Worldwide, Inc., 919 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Ste. 400, Foster City, CA 94404. (415)655-3000. [www.idgbooks.com](http://www.idgbooks.com)

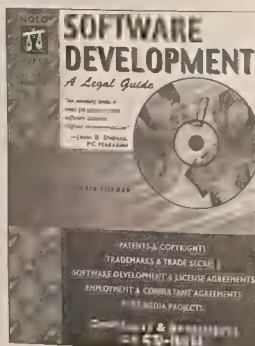
### Java Distributed Computing

*Java Distributed Computing*, written for immediate to advanced Java developers, provides an overview of the potential pitfalls programmers may face and offers practical solutions for Internet, intranet, client/server, and other distributed applications. It covers Java's RMI (Remote Method Invocation) facility and COBRA (Common Object Brokerage Request Architecture, the industry-standard component protocol for UNIX). It examines critical issues such as how to use Java's security facilities, multi-threaded servers, bandwidth limited applications, and collaborative systems. (\$32.95) O'Reilly & Associates, 101 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA 95472. 1-800-998-9938. [www.ora.com](http://www.ora.com)

### Software Development: A Legal Guide

*Software Development: A Legal Guide* is a comprehensive, up-to-date handbook on software intellectual property rights and software development and licensing agreements. Veteran Nolo author and intellectual property expert Attorney Stephen Fishman covers all the essentials of software law including copyright, trademark, trade secret, and patent protection how to avoid infringement, independent contractors and employment agree-

ments; development, licensing, and publishing agreements; international protection for your software; and much more. This newly revised edition includes step-by-step instructions and all the forms necessary to register a software all copyright with the US Copyright Office. All contracts, agreements, and legal forms are provided on CD-ROM. (\$44.95) Nolo Press, 950 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (510)549-1976. 1-800-992-8656. [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com)



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1-YEAR PARTS/LIFETIME LABOR  
72-HOURS BURN-IN TEST  
\*WINDOWS 95 INSTALLED

INTEL PENTIUM MMX 166MHZ	\$749
INTEL PENTIUM MMX 200MHZ	\$799
INTEL PENTIUM MMX 233MHZ	\$879
INTEL PENTIUM PRO 180MHZ	\$999
INTEL PENTIUM II 233MHZ	\$1150
INTEL PENTIUM II 266MHZ	\$1240
INTEL PENTIUM II 300MHZ	\$1399
AMD K6-200/233MHZ	\$799/\$899

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INTEL PENTIUM MMX 200MHZ	\$859
INTEL PENTIUM MMX 233MHZ	\$919
INTEL PENTIUM PRO 180MHZ	\$1059
INTEL PENTIUM II 233MHZ	\$1240
INTEL PENTIUM II 266MHZ	\$1405
INTEL PENTIUM II 300MHZ	\$1545
AMD K6-200/233MHZ	\$1150/\$1245

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16MB RAM  
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32X CD-ROM  
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32X CD-ROM  
Full Duxlex Sound Card  
2MB PCI Video Card  
23.6 Super Modem  
Multimedia Speaker System  
104/Win95 Keyboard/PSS-Mouse  
Windows 95 installed

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166 DELUXE CD Package	\$799
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233  
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Ethernet 10/100Mbps	\$13
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3COM 3C509 Pro ISA	\$19
3COM 3C509-C Combo SA	\$19
3COM 3C509-C 100 Pro SA	\$20
3Com SmartBridge Pro 10 SA	\$20
3Com SmartBridge Pro 10/100 Pro	\$29

NETWORK HUBS	
8-Port 10/100	\$49
8-Port 10/100/1000	\$59
16-Port 10/100	\$159
16-Port 10/100/1000	\$169

NETWORK SOFTWARE	
Windows 3.11/4.1	CALL
Windows NT4 Installation	CALL
Windows NT4 Service	CALL

3.5" 144 (28) Non-extended	\$132	CD Titles	\$12
3.5" 144 (28) Non-extended Digital Color	\$189	Microsoft Family Pack	\$45
1.2" Memory Pack 1024x1024	\$199	Microsoft Win 95, Win 98, Win 98 SE, Win 98 SE Service Pack 1, Win 98 SE Service Pack 2, Win 98 SE Service Pack 3, Win 98 SE Service Pack 4, Win 98 SE Service Pack 5, Win 98 SE Service Pack 6, Win 98 SE Service Pack 7, Win 98 SE Service Pack 8, Win 98 SE Service Pack 9, Win 98 SE Service Pack 10, Win 98 SE Service Pack 11, Win 98 SE Service Pack 12, Win 98 SE Service Pack 13, Win 98 SE Service Pack 14, Win 98 SE Service Pack 15, Win 98 SE Service Pack 16, Win 98 SE Service Pack 17, Win 98 SE Service Pack 18, Win 98 SE Service Pack 19, Win 98 SE Service Pack 20, Win 98 SE Service Pack 21, Win 98 SE Service Pack 22, Win 98 SE Service Pack 23, Win 98 SE Service Pack 24, Win 98 SE Service Pack 25, Win 98 SE Service Pack 26, Win 98 SE Service Pack 27, Win 98 SE Service Pack 28, Win 98 SE Service Pack 29, Win 98 SE Service Pack 30, Win 98 SE Service Pack 31, Win 98 SE Service Pack 32, Win 98 SE Service Pack 33, Win 98 SE Service Pack 34, Win 98 SE Service Pack 35, Win 98 SE Service Pack 36, Win 98 SE Service Pack 37, Win 98 SE Service Pack 38, Win 98 SE Service Pack 39, Win 98 SE Service Pack 40, Win 98 SE Service Pack 41, Win 98 SE Service Pack 42, Win 98 SE Service Pack 43, Win 98 SE Service Pack 44, Win 98 SE Service Pack 45, Win 98 SE Service Pack 46, Win 98 SE Service Pack 47, Win 98 SE Service Pack 48, Win 98 SE Service Pack 49, Win 98 SE Service Pack 50, Win 98 SE Service Pack 51, Win 98 SE Service Pack 52, Win 98 SE Service Pack 53, Win 98 SE Service Pack 54, Win 98 SE Service Pack 55, Win 98 SE Service Pack 56, Win 98 SE Service Pack 57, Win 98 SE Service Pack 58, Win 98 SE Service Pack 59, Win 98 SE Service Pack 60, Win 98 SE Service Pack 61, Win 98 SE Service Pack 62, Win 98 SE Service Pack 63, Win 98 SE Service Pack 64, Win 98 SE Service Pack 65, Win 98 SE Service Pack 66, Win 98 SE Service Pack 67, Win 98 SE Service Pack 68, Win 98 SE Service Pack 69, Win 98 SE Service Pack 70, Win 98 SE Service Pack 71, Win 98 SE Service Pack 72, Win 98 SE Service Pack 73, Win 98 SE Service Pack 74, Win 98 SE Service Pack 75, Win 98 SE Service Pack 76, Win 98 SE Service Pack 77, Win 98 SE Service Pack 78, Win 98 SE Service Pack 79, Win 98 SE Service Pack 80, Win 98 SE Service Pack 81, Win 98 SE Service Pack 82, Win 98 SE Service Pack 83, Win 98 SE Service Pack 84, Win 98 SE Service Pack 85, Win 98 SE Service Pack 86, Win 98 SE Service Pack 87, Win 98 SE Service Pack 88, Win 98 SE Service Pack 89, Win 98 SE Service Pack 90, Win 98 SE Service Pack 91, Win 98 SE Service Pack 92, Win 98 SE Service Pack 93, Win 98 SE Service Pack 94, Win 98 SE Service Pack 95, Win 98 SE Service Pack 96, Win 98 SE Service Pack 97, Win 98 SE Service Pack 98, Win 98 SE Service Pack 99, Win 98 SE Service Pack 100	
3.5" 144 (28) Non-extended Digital Color	\$209	Memory Upgrade Kits	
1.2" AV22 (28) Non-extended Digital Color	\$349	1.2M HDD	\$27
CD (17) Non-extended (28)	\$179	1.44 FDD	\$18
		CD & Sound Upgrade	CALL
		CD-ROMS	
		1.7GB IDE	\$129
		2.1GB Ultra DMA	\$159
		3.2GB Ultra DMA	\$189
		4.3GB Ultra DMA	\$219
		7GB Ultra DMA	\$289
		Grand Video Games	\$119
		IV Fun Pack	\$99
		MMX Speaker 120W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 150W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 180W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 210W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 240W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 270W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 300W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 330W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 360W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 390W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 420W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 450W	\$99
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		MMX Speaker 570W	\$99
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		MMX Speaker 8880W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 8910W	\$99
		MMX Speaker 89	\$99



## Product Spotlight

Product Announcements *continued.*

### Macintosh Software

#### Dr Solomon's Virex 5.0

Virex is designed to meet the growing need for

Macintosh virus protection due to the proliferation of macro viruses. With Scan-At-Download, Virex automatically protects users from viruses in files downloaded from the Internet and email attachments—relieving users from specifying searches by name of files, folders or volumes. Other features include: SpeedScan increases the scanning speed; Macro Virus Protection detects and repairs infected documents before they are opened by Microsoft Word or Excel; Compressed File

Scanning scans zip archives and files compressed with Stuffit Deluxe, Compact Pro, Disk Doubler, Auto Doubler, and Now Compress; a Virus Encyclopedia gives you a wealth of virus information; and an intuitive interface makes virus reporting fast and flexible. (Estimated Street Price, \$69; Virex Protection Service, \$75, includes monthly virus updates, email, all product feature upgrades, and a toll-free tech support.) Dr. Solomon's Software, Inc., 1 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803, 1-888-DrSolomon (818)273-7400 [www.drsolomon.com](http://www.drsolomon.com).

#### Amicus Attorney Pro 3.0 For Macintosh

Amicus Attorney is jurisdiction-independent legal software for private and corporate legal departments. Lawyer version, organization and software, available as a single-user product or with Amicus Team for networked environments. It offers many advanced features and provides seamless inter-

faces with many third party programs such as HotDocs, CompuLaw, and billing and accounting programs. The Assistant Office version allows assistants to work with an attorney's practice information over a network. Amicus Attorney Pro 3.0 offers powerful new features such as enhanced document assembly with Microsoft

starter kit/user manual. TrueView's on-screen display of feature controls allows users to adjust eleven different image settings. These animated icons will alert the user when on adjustment of feature (such as contrast) has a complementary control that can adjust another, related feature (such as brightness). This makes it possible

to achieve the perfect setting without having to keep returning to the main menu. The Avionics line is compatible with both PC and Macintosh computers and is backed with a full three-year warranty on parts, CRT, and labor. In addition, the KDS Advanced Replacement Express Service (KARES) program covers the lifetime of any Avionics model and is a fast and convenient system to quickly receive a replacement monitor in the event your monitor requires service. (15" AV-ST, \$349.99; 17" AV-TT, \$629.99; AV-9T, \$849.99.) KDS USA, Inc., 12300 Edison Way, Garden Grove, CA 92641, 1-800-237-9988. [www.kdsusa.com](http://www.kdsusa.com)

#### Optquest V115T

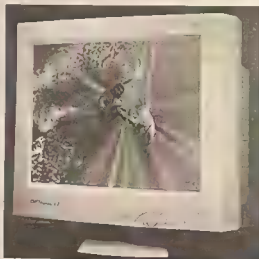
As the first aperture grille monitor in the Optquest line, the vertically flat, 21" DiamondTron V115T screen offers superb, bright, color-saturated images with less distortion. Its 0.28mm stripe pitch produces sharp, crisp images and features a 89Hz refresh rate at 1280 x 1024 resolution.

The ARAG screen treatment provides anti-reflection, anti-glare protection while enhancing picture quality. OnView controls, a user-friendly system, saves time by providing one-touch digital controls to adjust images with precision. ViewMatch color controls let you easily calibrate screen-to-print color matching. The V115T complies with the world's strictest standards for low emissions and energy consumption. It is backed by a three-year limited warranty on CRT and parts, one-year on labor, and is compatible with PCs, Macintosh computers, and UNIX workstations. Optquest, Inc., 438 Cheryl Ln., Walnut, CA 91789, 1-800-843-6784. [www.optquest.com](http://www.optquest.com)

### Monitors

#### KDS USA Avitron Monitors

The Avitron of 15" and 17" color monitors feature Sony Trinitron technology. KDS USA's TrueView advanced control set, KARES customer service program, and a comprehensive



Word, the "Do" button provides intelligent assistance to users on a variety of tasks, and extensive end-user customization. Notebook users have the ability to disconnect from the network, taking their practice information with them. Reconnection will combine any changes. (Lawyer Office, \$299; Assistant Office, \$149) Gavel & Gown Software, Inc., 1 Pearl St. Ste. 304, Toronto, ON, Canada M5H 1L5, 1-800-472-2289. [www.amicus.ca](http://www.amicus.ca)

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Solomon's Virex 5.0; Optquest V115T aperture grille monitor; KDS USA Avitron monitor; Amicus Attorney Pro 3.0 for Macintosh from Gavel & Gown Software.

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- \$1599 1610 P-150MHz 16MB, 1.4GB, 12.1" DS, 14X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.
- \$1899 1620 P-166MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 20X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.
- \$2599 1680 P-200MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 20X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.
- \$1999 1080 P-166MHz 16MB, 1.4GB, 12.1" TFT, 20X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$2899 1681 P-233MHz 48MB, 3.1GB, 12.1" HSTN, 20X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.
- \$1899 1220 P-200MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" HSTN, 20X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.
- \$2199 1621 AMD 233, 32MB, 2GB, 12.1" HSTN, 20X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.
- \$1999 1710SB P-166MHz 32MB, 2GB, 12.1" HSTN, 20X CD, 56KB, 1 Yr.

### COMPAQ Armada

- \$1300 1535 P-133MHz 1.35GB, 12.1" DS, 10X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$1800 1585DMT P-150MHz 16MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 10X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$2999 7730MT P-166MHz 16MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 8X CD, 33.6, 3 Yr.
- \$CALL 7770MT P-233MHz 32MB, 3.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 20X CD, 33.6, 3 Yr.

### TOSHIBA

- \$CALL 50CT P-75MHz 16MB, 810MB, Active
- \$CALL 750CDT P-233MHz 32MB, 4.7GB, 13.3" TFT, 20X CD, 33.6, 3 Yr.
- \$2399 300CT P-233MHz 32MB, 1.6GB, 10.4" TFT, Optional CD, 3 Yr.
- \$1399 445CDX P-133MHz 16MB, 1.35GB, 12.1" TFT, 10X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$1799 445CDT P-133MHz 16MB, 1.35GB, 12.1" TFT, 10X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$2499 460CDT P-166MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 10X CD, 33.6, 3 Yr.
- \$1799 465CDX P-166MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" DS, 10X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$2799 740CDT P-166MHz 16MB, 3GB, 13.3" TFT, 10X CD, 28.8, 3 Yr.
- \$CALL 480CDT P-233MHz 32MB, 3.8GB, 10X CD, 3 Yr.
- \$CALL 305, Call for configuration options
- \$CALL 315, Call for configuration options

### OTHER NOTEBOOKS

- \$1599 AHS TRUMP 1900 P-166MHz 16MB, 1.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 14X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$1699 TI TRVLMT 6050 P-150MHz 16MB, 1.35GB, 12.1" TFT, 10X CD, 28.8, 1 Yr.

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### SONY

- \$2199 SONY 705C P-150MHz 16MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT 14X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$3399 SONY 717C P-200MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT, 14X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.
- \$3599 SONY 719C P-233MHz 32MB, 2.1GB, 12.1" TFT 14X CD, 33.6, 1 Yr.

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- \$99.00 COMPAQ PCMCIA 33.6 Modem
- \$189.99 XURCOM 33.6/10BASE T PCMCIA Combo Card
- \$135.00 SIMPLE TECH. PCMCIA 20MB Flash Memory Card

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- #### DYNE 133
- 133MHz Intel
  - 16MB RAM
  - 2 1GB Hard Drive
  - 24X CD-ROM
  - 14" Monitor
  - Video Card, Floppy
  - Keyboard, Mouse, Win 95
- \$722**

- #### DYNE 166
- 166MHz Intel
  - 16MB RAM
  - 2 1GB Hard Drive
  - 24X CD-ROM
  - 15" Monitor, Sound Card
  - Video Card
  - 5.25 Modems, Speakers, Floppy
  - Keyboard, Mouse, Win 95
- \$900**

- #### DYNE 200
- 200MHz Intel Celeron
  - 32MB RAM
  - 2 1GB Hard Drive
  - 24X CD-ROM
  - 15" Monitor, Sound Card
  - Video Card
  - 5.25 Modems, Speakers, Floppy
  - Keyboard, Mouse, Win 95
- \$965**

- #### DYNE 233
- 233MHz AMD
  - 64MB RAM
  - 1GB Hard Drive
  - 17" Monitor, Sound Card
  - 4MB Video Card
  - 5.25 Modems, Speakers, Floppy
  - SCSI Adapter
- \$1679**

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# Product Spotlight

## Product Announcements continued

### Networking Hardware

#### ISDN Terminal Adapter

The TA120 Terminal Adapter provided an affordable solution for ISDN Internet access small office and home office professionals. It includes one data port (DB-25) for synchronous clear channel data that rates up to 64kbps, or asynchronous data that rates up to 230.4kbps. The TA120 automatically adapts to B channel protocol and utilizes dynamic bandwidth allocation with Multilink-PPP Async to sync PPP or Multilink MP as supported. It also features two analog (POTS) ports for connecting analog telephones, fax machines, and modems to ISDN to provide low-cost integrated telephony solution. It is available with a U-interface for direct connection to the ISDN line, or with a S/T-interface that connects the ISDN via a NT1 line (5325) Alpha Telecom, Inc., 7501 S. Memorial Pkwy., Ste. 212, Huntsville, AL 35802 (800)881-8743 [www.alpha-tele.com](http://www.alpha-tele.com)

#### Interjet

The Whistle Interjet is an all-in-one solution that provides email, Web access, and Web publishing for everyone in a small office of up to 100 people. It offers a full-featured email server, giving everyone in your office their email address. The built-in Web browser allows you to publish both internal and external Web pages. The Interjet also has a built-in firewall security to help keep people out of important data and to give you better control over who can access that data. It is easy to set-up—simply plug phone line and Ethernet LAN into the back of the Interjet. Through a Whistle-Authorized ISP the Interjet automatically configures itself easily upgradeable, providing bandwidth capacity from 33.6kbps to ISDN or full T1 speeds. Interjet can be administered from either a Windows or Macintosh computer. Prices start at \$1995 for users or less. Whistle Communications,

Corp., 110 Marsh Dr., Foster City, CA 94404 (650)577-7000 or 1-800-494-4785. [info@whistle.com](mailto:info@whistle.com), [www.whistle.com/](http://www.whistle.com/)

### Scanners

#### HP ScanJet 5100C

The ScanJet 5100C flatbed scanner is an affordable one-pass scanner that makes exceptional photo-quality scanning easy and automatic—even for users with previous scanning experience. Key

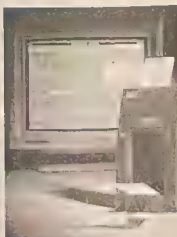


Clockwise from top left: Alpha Telecom's TA120 Terminal Adapter; Smart Business Card Reader from Seiko Instruments USA; Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 5100C; Whistle Interjet.

features of HP's Intelligent Scanning Technology include dual image scanning, automatic complex analysis, enhanced art, direct connectivity for popular applications, and 36-bit image processing. The ScanJet 5100C is bundled with a CD-ROM containing scanning software: HP PrecisionScan image capture software, HP Color Copy Utility with fully automated OCR software through Caere OmniPage. It also includes Adobe PhotoDeluxe for image editing and publishing, and Caere PageKeeper Lite for paper and electronic document management. (\$299) Hewlett-Packard Corp. 1-800-SCANJET, [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)

#### Smart Business Card Reader

The latest version of the Smart Business Card Reader (SBCR) contains AddressGrabber transfer technology, enabling users to transfer business cards and transfer the information directly to the US Robotics PalmPilot PDA. The SBCR is a compact desktop scanner that reads cards in either landscape or portrait format at



speeds of up to four cards per minute. Once the card is inserted, one touch of a button and the built-in software recognizes the card data and places it into the appropriate fields in about 15 seconds. Other features allow users to add notes to the cards and search for contacts based on those notes. Users can drag-and-drop fields from a card image to a database, and use the Smart Zoom feature to highlight areas of the card to be edited. (\$199) Seiko Instruments USA, Inc., 1130 Ringwood Court, San Jose, CA 95131. 1-800-688-0814 or (408)922-5800. [www.seikosmart.com](http://www.seikosmart.com)

### Windows Software

#### The Thomas Guide CD-ROM: 1998 Bay Area

The 1998 version of the Bay Area Thomas Guide CD-ROM covers Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. PC users are able to easily pinpoint a Bay Area location by typing in a street address. By selecting a point of interest from a convenient index. Once the corresponding map page is displayed, users can zoom in and zoom out to view locations at various levels of detail and insert symbols to mark specific locations. Maps can then be printed—in color or black and white—on high-resolution printers (300+ dpi) or copied and inserted into other software programs using the





# Product Spotlight

## Product Announcements *continued*

Windows copy and paste functions. Up to ten locations can be saved for future reference. The Thomas Guide CD-ROMs are updated and published on an annual basis. (\$49.95) Thomas Bros Maps, 1-800-899-6277. [www.thomas.com](http://www.thomas.com)

### RealHelp Extra Strength

RealHelp, for Windows 95, offers a complete system diagnosis and problem solver. It continuously checks for software conflicts using its ActiveSystem monitoring to spot potential problems and to automatically fix the problem.

RealHelp also checks for and fixes hardware configuration conflicts. The Extra Strength version includes a one-year subscription to [TuneUp.com](http://TuneUp.com), Quarterdeck's online service station. TuneUp profiles the PC, building a hardware and software inventory, then compares the inventory list against a list of updates, patches, and drivers on the TuneUp server. If there are updates available, the list is sent to the user, who selects what to automatically download and install. Using Change Remover, the user can undo any update. (Regular Strength, \$39.95; Extra Strength, \$59.95) Quarterdeck Corp., 13160 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 (310)339-3700. [www.quarterdeck.com](http://www.quarterdeck.com)

### Drumbeat 2.0

Drumbeat Web authoring software allows non-programmers to create highly interactive, cross-browser compatible, database-driven Web sites without needing to write code. Version 2.0 introduces Interaction Builder, which lets you create and manage Web applications using plain English-language associations. For any combination of design elements, Drumbeat determines a list of appropriate interactions. Simply point-and-click on the desired interaction and the correct HTML and script are generated automatically. In addition to Interaction Builder, Drumbeat 2.0 has a number of other features designed to simplify the process of building effective Web-based business solu-

tions. Key among them is the Data-Driven PageSets feature that allows you to build database applications that create pages dynamically from popular servers such as the Microsoft Internet Information Server and Netscape Information Management Servers. DataForm Wizard creates WYSIWYG-editable data management pages for search, view, update, and delete. With Flexible One-Button Publishing, entire sites can be deployed to Microsoft, Netscape, and Apache servers without any manual use of FTP. The Preview Edition of Drumbeat

gently, an inspired performer does. The Hierarchical Pulse feature allows you to adjust the time/amplitude warp of the music to shape the musical meaning of the piece you are interpreting. SuperConductor uses Predictive Note Shaping technology to intelligently mold each note to create musical meaning. Its Living Vibrato uses patented global algorithms that let you make simple adjustments that create a unique natural sounding vibrato tailored to the meaning of each note in a musical line. The complete original scores of more than 360

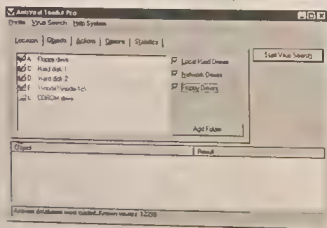
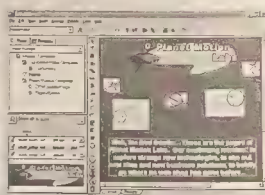
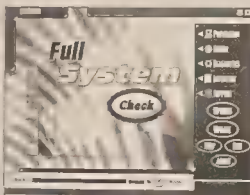
pieces from classical masters such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven are included in the software. A full piece may take a couple of hours to interpret, and favorite versions can be saved for future enjoyment. Only the score and rich interpretive elements are stored—the music is freshly created from these

each time it is played. (\$395, requires a Pentium 100 or higher and Windows 95/NT) MicroSound International Ltd., 19101 Mesquite Ct., Sonoma, CA 94976 (707)939-1566 or 1-800-998-8144. [www.microsound.com](http://www.microsound.com)

### AntiViral Toolkit Pro For Windows 95/NT

AntiViral Toolkit Pro for Windows 95/NT is a integrated solution for the protection, detection, and removal of viruses without having to restart your computer using a

rescue diskette or boot diskette. It provides absolute security by protecting against all known viruses and detecting the presence of new, previously unknown viruses. Detects and removes, stealth, polymorphic, macro and encrypted viruses easily. It safeguards local and networked drives, CD-ROMs, floppies, boot sector, file allocation, and partition tables. Heuristic virus scanning engine detects over 100 of new "unknown" viruses. AntiViral Toolkit Pro provides protection from new viruses by updating the virus database on a weekly basis (\$24.95) Central Command Inc., PO Box 856, Brunswick, NJ 07001 (330)273-2870. [www.arvp.com](http://www.arvp.com)



Clockwise from top left: RealHelp Extra Strength from Quarterdeck Corp.; Drumbeat Web authoring software from Elemental Software, Inc.; AntiViral Toolkit Pro for Windows 95/NT from Central Command, Inc.

2.0 is available for download at no charge at [www.drumbeat.com](http://www.drumbeat.com). (\$399) Elemental Software, Inc., 5927 Priestly Dr., Ste. 101, Carlsbad, CA 92008, (760)931-5152. [www.elementalsoft.com](http://www.elementalsoft.com)

### SuperConductor

SuperConductor is a software synthesizer and performance engine that uses new technology to shape the music naturally and intelli-

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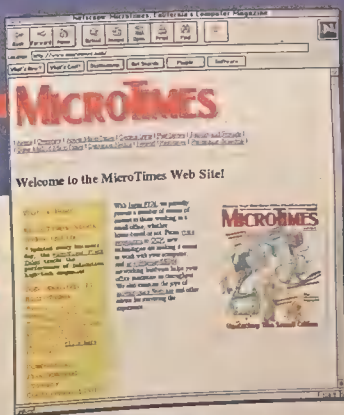
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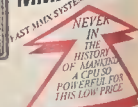
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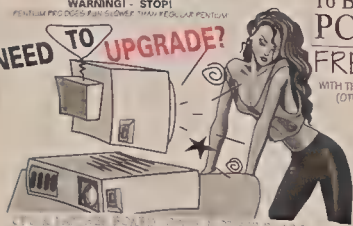
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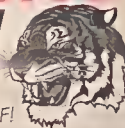
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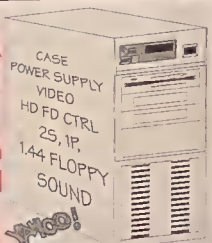
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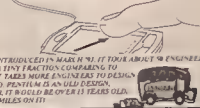
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10-6 (WKND 11-4)

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PENTIUM WAS INTRODUCED IN MARCH '93. IT TOOK ABOUT 8 ENGINEERS TO DESIGN IT. A TINY FRACTION COMPARED TO WINSTON CHURCHILL. IT TAKES MORE ENGINEERS TO DESIGN SOME CAMERAS. PENTIUM IS AN OLD DESIGN. IT IT WAS A CAR, IT WOULD BE OVER 10 YEARS OLD. WITH TOPS OF MILES ON IT!

Architectural Features	Cyrix 686 processor	Pentium Pro (P3) processor	Pentium processor
Full 486 Instruction Set Compatibility	X		X
Superscalar		X	X
Superpipelined		X	X
Register Renaming		X	X
Data Dependency Removal		X	X
Multi-Branch Prediction		X	X

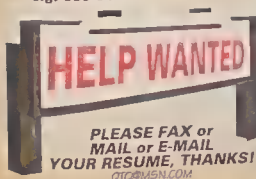
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e.g. 686 CYRIX!

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# Product Spotlight

## Product Announcements continued from page 210

### Accessories

#### Aqua Pad

The Aqua Pad is a liquid-filled mouse pad with floating objects or swirling colors. It currently comes in two varieties. The first features a brightly-colored background with clear liquid and fun floating objects that move as you move the mouse. An example is Twister, a tornado complete with flying teapots, cats, and doghouses. The second variety, known as two-color Aqua Pads, is reminiscent of the Lava Lamp, with its swirling blobs of color. Every time you move your mouse, the two layers of tinted liquid shift subtly, making the col-

or appear to mix in every changing pattern. The liquid is a non-toxic mixture of glycerin and water sealed inside a pouch between the top surface and base of the pad. A backing of skid-proof natural rubber ensures that the pad will stay put as you move the mouse. (515) Computer Expressions, Inc., 4200 Mitchell St., Philadelphia, PA 19128-3593 1-800-443-8278 or (215)487-7700 [www.compxpress.com](http://www.compxpress.com)

#### Universal Scanner Stand

The Universal Scanner Stand is designed to raise large format scanners off the desk 4" and provide much needed space for supplies and peripherals in the often crowded work space on your desk. The stand is made of two leg design, allowing you to easily access supplies like paper, toner cartridges, Zip drives, or just about anything. Each leg is made of high-quality clear acrylic, measuring 13.5" x 2.5" x 4". The two cushioned support pads hold the scanner securely in place (\$19.95, plus shipping). MCI Products, P.O. Box 1000, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 1-888-216-1000 [www.mci-products.com](http://www.mci-products.com)

### Storage Hardware

#### ORB

Incorporating magnetoresistive (MR) technology, the ORB 3.5" removable media with

storage capacity of 2.16GB. At a sustained data transfer rate of 12.2MB per second, it is "video ready" and using MPEG-2 compression can store 133 minutes of SVHS quality video or 72 minutes of DVD quality video. ORBIT Tools software is designed to organize and manipulate data on the cartridge to make the user's job easy. The software bundle includes Tools, Finder, Docker, and Dupe. Two backup functions are available. One-Step backup, which transfers 2GB onto a single cartridge while the user keeps working, and Backup Pro offers features such as file and directory selection, scripting, and scheduling. Castlewood offers ORB in four configura-

drive and one disk. \$199.95; additional disks \$29.95. Castlewood Systems, Inc., 5000 Hopland Rd., Ste. 330, Pleasanton, CA 94588 (510)224-9900 [www.castlewoodsystems.com](http://www.castlewoodsystems.com)

### Projectors

#### Polaview 215

The Polaview 215 high-resolution multimedia LCD projector provides portability, convenience, and high-luminance pictures for delivering presentations. Weighing just 12.6 lbs. and measuring 9.6" x 6" x 13", it is the smallest and lightest projector in Polaroid's line of LCD projectors. It delivers brilliant images with 800 x 600 SVGA resolution, 167 million colors, and 400 ANSI lumens. It also features a built-in PCMCIA card slot for computer free presentations, zoom, built-in speakers, and backlit remote. The Polaview 215 supports NTSC, PAL M, PAL N, SECAM, and S-video. The projector is compatible with Windows and Macintosh computers. (55495) Polaroid Corp., 565 Technology Sq., Cambridge, MA 02139 1-800-816-2611 (978)256-4436 [www.polaroid.com](http://www.polaroid.com)

#### Boxlight 4000

The Boxlight 4000 is a lightweight multimedia projector that offers the high power typically found only in large projectors. It weighs 6.9 lbs. as small as a notebook computer, and renders 600 resolution with 500 lumens. Its smart auto-sensing feature synchronizes the computer to match the projector's optimal settings and then automatically calibrates the picture for the presenter. Its easy-to-use interface allows presenters to concentrate on impressing their audiences instead of wrestling with setting up the equipment. The Boxlight 4000 is compatible with PC or Macintosh computers, VCR, laser disc players, or even a video game station. (55999) Boxlight Corp., 12330 Powder Hill Place, Poway, WA 98370 (360)739-4479 1-800-762-5757 [www.boxlight.com](http://www.boxlight.com)



Top left: Universal Scanner Stand from MCI Products; top right: Polaroid Polaview 215 projector; above: ORB removable storage media from Castlewood Systems, Inc.; right: Boxlight 4000 projector.

internal EIDE, external parallel port, and internal external SCSI. Various configurations are compatible with different operating systems including DOS, Windows, and Macintosh (External configurations, including



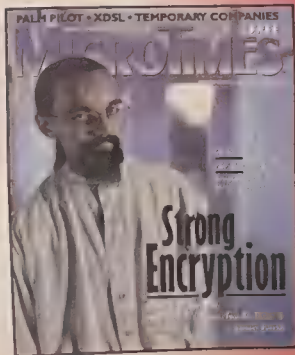
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 MICROTIMES • FEBRUARY 27, 1998 215







Products continued from page 214

## Product Reviews

### Software

#### Data Desk Plus II

Published By: Data Description, Inc.

For: Windows and Macintosh

List Price: Price depends on version (see below)

Review By: Matthew Leeds

Last year I returned to college to finish my degree. Along with the management, marketing, and finance classes, I faced ten weeks of statistics. As with most students, I had heard horror stories about statistics courses. I decided to get some tutoring via a program from Data Description called Data Desk Plus. This is an award-winning data analysis program that includes a multimedia tutorial on CD-ROM and covers the material found in an introductory college statistics class. The complete Data Desk Plus package costs \$795 for the commercial version (discounted to \$477 for academic use), but students can get just the tutorial (ActivStats) bundled with a student version of Data Desk from Addison-Wesley for under \$30. This is an incredible bargain, and one that any student of statistics should take advantage of.

ActivStats combines digitized video and narration, animation, hypertext, simulation, and student activities to both teach the basics of Data Desk and the basics of statistics. There are Web links to additional material and updates. I found ActivStats to be an excellent device for learning about statistics, once I got through the material on how to use the program. The student version was a particularly welcome mechanism for learning, giving me a visual display of the results of calculations that aided my assimilation of the concepts of methods of statistics.

Data Desk is an excellent tool for exploring statistics. It's remarkably fast, makes use of the mouse (with the notable exception of ignoring the right button—a result of its Macintosh heritage), and provides excellent visual feedback on color and selection tools to assist in data exploration. There are versions

of Data Desk and ActivStats for the Macintosh and Windows, with modest minimum system requirements for each. Thanks in part to the tutorials, I not only passed statistics. I got an A. (Data Description, Inc., 840 Hanshaw Rd., Ste. II, Ithaca, NY 14850. Sales: 1-800-573-512, URL: [www.datadesk.com](http://www.datadesk.com).)

## Windows Software

#### NetAccelerator

Published By: IMSI USA

List Price: \$29.95

Review By: Ron Enderland

The Internet is huge, essential, free-spirited, overrated, and several other adjectives, depending on whom you ask. All who use it agree, however, that it is one thing: slow.

How do you speed things up?

Well, one way is in making that modem work a little harder. It huffs and puffs while you're downloading a Web page, but when it's finished, it just sits idly by.

IMSI's NetAccelerator makes it earn its keep, downloading pages

that are linked to the one that you're browsing. Then when you click on links, the pages come from your cache, rather than over the telephone wires. The result? Sped-up surfing.

NetAccelerator works very well. It stands at the top of the page that you're viewing and diligently downloads each linked page, complete with graphics, sound files, etc. You might have to manually change a few system settings to make it work most efficiently, however.

First, you need a good-sized cache on your hard disk. Set your browser to maintain at least 10MB of cached files. Second, to make sure NetAccelerator does not continue to run while you are downloading a big file via FTP, you will have to hit the pause button.

Keeping these things in mind, you're going to love this program. You'll get used to pages popping up much faster than you've been used to. One final word of warning: If you're using an older computer (such as my Pentium-90), the system will slow down a bit. NetAccelerator requires a 133MHz processor horsepower. If you're running a 133MHz or faster system with 32MB of RAM, you shouldn't have a thing. (IMSI USA, 1895 Francisco Blvd. E., San Rafael, CA 94901-5506. 415/257-3000, [www.imsiusa.com](http://www.imsiusa.com).)

#### Mijenix PowerDesk Utilities

Published By: Mijenix Corp.

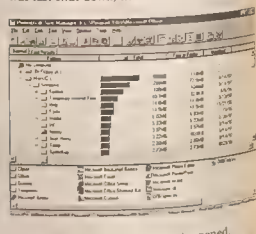
List Price: \$39.95

Reviewed By: Ron Enderland

Mijenix' PowerDesk Utilities contains the stuff that should have been included in Windows 95 (and we'll probably be saying the same thing about Windows 98, too).

Included in the package is Explorer Plus, a file management tool designed to replace the familiar Explorer included in the Windows package.

Explorer, the next generation of File Manager, cunningly left out many of the handy features of the old 16-bit application. For instance, it doesn't have those handy-dandy drive icons, allowing you to quickly access other drives. You can't form a new window, allowing easy dragging and dropping between different drives or folders. It won't remember what folder that you were in when it was last shut down, instead defaulting to the



drive root directory each time it's opened.

Well, Explorer Plus replaces those beloved File Manager traits. In addition to handling these tasks, it also has a built-in zip file viewer that displays the file as a folder. You can view, run, add, or delete files from within the archive by simply clicking, dragging, etc. just as if the zip file was a regular folder.

Also part of the PowerDesk package is a Size Manager, which gives you a graphical picture of where your hard drive space has gone. Folders (and files) are listed with bar graphs indicating their size.

Finally, are you tired of the Windows 95 task bar? Do you wish it would tell you more? If the answer is yes, you'll like the PowerDesk Toolbar. It is a programmable bar that can be configured to display information such as system resources, printers, desktop icons, and a quick Windows 95 task bar.

This is a handy bunch of utilities for the price. I recommend it. (Mijenix Corp., 3030 Sterling Circle, Boulder, CO 80301. 303/245-0000 [www.mijenix.com](http://www.mijenix.com).)



# Books, Books, Books

## The Writing Is Not On The Wall

Whatever else the digital revolution has been good for so far, it's certainly been stimulating for the production of good old-fashioned books about itself.

There's something ironic in this; I recall that in 1993 the mood was that all the manifestations of the new digital interactive multimedia were going to render the other old media almost instantly obsolete. Well, those were giddy days indeed! Now, it's quite clear that some messages are most definitely better served by particular media, old as they may be.

Messages that require more time than an hour or so to be fully delivered are better served by books. Messages that you might want to carry around with you and consult at odd moments are generally more convenient in printed and bound form, although laptops might fit the bill for some. Messages that are based on a lot of words are somehow far more comfortable within the covers of a book, certainly they're read. Books currently have some economic advantages over electronic forms although one would be foolish to deny that electronic forms have some media abilities that books do not.

There's something nice about the quality of frozen time that books provide. The message is



of really urgent, vital information that could change my life, change the world—but that is too often totally undigested, raw, self-interested, of the moment, and useless. Frequently, it's little more than sewage. Books offer a focus that is sorely absent from much day-to-day media, an absorption that provides a buffer zone.

Books about new media are an oxymoron to some, but there are times when it's just too damn tiring to swim in those tumultuous seas. It's time to bask on the rocks, to observe the endless far-off swells, to admire the spray thrown up by what breakers make it to land. The following are books that have some use in the contemplation of digital media, its practice and its implications.

### MULTIMEDIA—THE COMPLETE GUIDE

DK Publishing, producers of *Multimedia—The Complete Guide*, are innovative modern information providers par excellence. Their graphic-house style is instantly recognizable, and immediately draws one into a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Books for both children and adults are their primary medium.

right there, immobile; it's done wriggling around for awhile. There's time to pause and reflect. In fact, in these stormy media times, that's one of the things I like best about books. They offer a chance to haul out of the primarily electronic floods of press releases, email, magazines, the constant battering of after wave

# MultiMedia & BEYOND

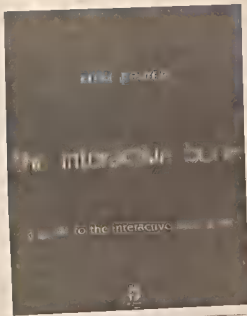
but they also have a number of highly praised CD-ROM and video titles, often developed in conjunction with a book, as well as private Webzines for purchasers of particular CD-ROM titles. *MultiMedia—The Complete Guide* is, however, a stand-alone book.

Being a rather elaborately produced book and also being published in 1996, *MultiMedia—The Complete Guide* is not absolutely current with today's titles or the state of some of today's hardware. However, it is still a really good guide to the basic concepts behind digital media, and suitable for children who aren't already immersed in it, or who want to know what goes on behind the scenes. Adults who are trying to catch up with their offspring or who are still wondering what multimedia is all about, will also find this book extremely useful in unraveling the mysteries of little shiny discs and their contents.

Since this book was published, the Web has rampaged all over the digital media landscape. In particular, the word "interactive" has extended its meaning from simple "user clicking and computer responding" to "users communicating with other users." *MultiMedia—The Complete Guide* was certainly looking ahead when published and takes note of these developments on its time horizon, but the overall emphasis is on CD-ROMs, with an overview of basic digital media techniques of sound, graphics, animation, and video. However, it also addresses some of the general theory and impetus behind the interactive movement, particularly in the fields of education and general information availability.

In its then-current outlook, the book still provides value today, with both sobering and amusing opportunities to reflect upon some of the projected successes that have since become failures, and some predictions that remain pie-in-the-sky. And that's why even professionals and adepts who already know everything about multimedia should keep this book on their bookshelves. It's a reminder that the media landscape can change awesomely fast, but that some underlying principles remain in place.

DK Publishing, in the true style of today's media and information providers, has also repurposed some of its assets from *MultiMedia—The Complete Guide* into a slimmer and more up-to-date pocket guide, *101 Essential Tips—Exploring Multimedia*. Perhaps thought up by the marketing department, the booklet still contains such valuable tips as, "The competitive nature of many computer



*The Interactive Book* succeeds both as a document of one individual's ride through the bumpy rapids of the new media industry and as a manifesto of what that industry should attempt.

games means that they can have an addictive, compulsive effect. Ensure that you do not sit in front of the computer screen for extended periods without taking regular breaks." There's also a teaser that, "Many leading games companies use the World Wide Web to test their latest games, from chess to quizzes to adventure games, providing a rich source of online games for Internet users."

Unfortunately, there's no up on how to search for such experiences.

Perhaps this one's for impulse point-of-sale purchase.

## FROM MYST TO RIVEN

If you read this column in our January issue, you'll know that *Riven* sets a new graphics standard for computer games just as *Myst* did in 1994. (If you missed the column, you can still read it on our Web site at [www.microtimes.com/174mm101.html](http://www.microtimes.com/174mm101.html).) If you'd like a lavishly illustrated book-length explanation of how

*Riven* achieved that success. From *Myst* To *Riven* is for you.

Beyond simply detailing the technical processes, author Richard Kadrey illuminates the entire creative and collaborative journey that the Miller brothers and Cyan undertook between the completion of *Myst* and the final delivery of *Riven*. It's a fascinating story, and Kadrey investigates all its twists and turns much as one must do to successfully unravel the mysteries behind the *Riven* world of the D'Ni.

Perhaps the most reassuring (but hardly surprising) thing I learn is that the Millers really had no idea how difficult the task they set themselves was. Initial estimates were that *Riven* would take two years to complete. Eventually, due to both various technical upgrades and changes of hardware and software and, more importantly, the creative demands of the story, it took four years.

Kadrey ably explains the problems faced and the various solutions and processes used to overcome them. He must have had remarkable access, because the story is told in great detail, both in his own words and with generous quotes from members of the fairly large team that eventually worked on the production.

Beyond his excellent descriptions of various technical steps required, Kadrey does a superb job of discussing the more subtle emotional issues behind why *Riven* works well. He partially does this by referring to the plot itself, but beyond that he provides real depth by focusing on the reasons why the Millers and their crew made the artistic decisions they made. This insight has much to offer anyone with a desire to make their own interactive world.

Kadrey's words are supported by generous illustrations, ranging from original hand-drawn sketches of concepts through to screenshots. It's real eye candy, but nutritious too. On the cerebral level, much of the back story is explained; there's also background material such as a discussion of the D'Ni writing system and grammar.

It looks a bit like a coffee-table book, but all told *From Myst To Riven* is near-essential reading for any *Riven* fan, for wannabe developers desiring to learn a few tricks of the trade, or for actual developers who appreciate the artistry of others.

## THE INTERACTIVE BOOK

Celia Pearce, author of *The Interactive Book—A Guide to the Interactive* (continued on page 224)



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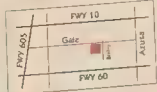
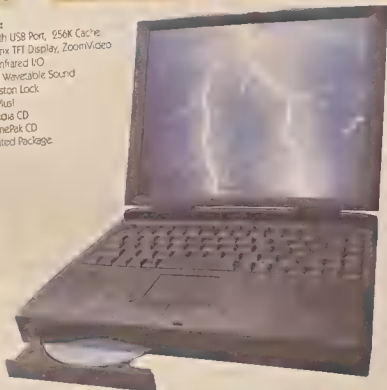
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# MultiMedia & BEYOND

MULTIMEDIA 101 continued from page 221

*Revolution*, is perhaps best known as Creative Director of the award-winning Virtual Adventures location-based-entertainment (LBE) VR project developed by Iwerks and Evans ■ Sutherland in 1993. While still not commercially deployed on a wide scale, Virtual Adventures is part game, part movie, and part ride (and Pearce explains that it had to be a great game, movie and ride), with the object being for the players to team up and rescue the Loch Ness Monster's eggs from bounty hunters. TIME called it "The Barney of VR games."

Recently, Pearce designed collectible trading cards and "transmedia products" to be used in conjunction with Purple Moon's new line of CD-ROMs and Web sites for girls. However, she has been a professional participant in various arenas of the interactive movement since 1983. Before that, ever since her birth, both her parents played roles in the proto-interactive design scene of the '60s and '70s. All of this and much, much more ■ well laid out in her innovative and imaginative book—a book that seems nearly destined to have been written.

Although she has mostly worked on LBEs rather than desktop products, Pearce has plenty to say—and it's all worth hearing—about various aspects of the entire interactive entertainment industry. She dishes the dirt on various idiotic schemes, philosophizes on the true meaning of interactivity, righteously rants on the subjects of violence and sexism, covers the wild fluctuations of her career path (but she's mostly on an upward trajectory), discusses some technical issues, and muses on media history and its relationship with society. It's a great book to read, both for what she reveals about herself and for what she has ■ say about the course of interactivity.

The danger of a book like this is that it ■ end up as a complete mish-mash. Here's where ■ innovative quality comes into play, along with a claim ■ the word "interactive" beyond just its subject matter. Rather than being a linearly written book progressing through her thoughts in whatever sequence she might deem appropriate, Pearce has arranged the subjects covered in alphabetical order, i.e. somewhat randomly, and then put Go To ■ between topics. ■ few topics ■ linked to ■ or two other places. While most take off ■ a thicker of connections.

I was skeptical ■ first, but it works well. In fact, it becomes really fun just ■ dip into the book at random and see where you get ■ by

reading from one section to another. Interestingly, it also keeps you reading far longer than you might ■ you were just plodding along in a straight line, although eventually a certain frustration creeps in because you know you're not going to get to everything of interest in one session. Of course, none of this would matter or work if Pearce's writing did not engage you with the entertaining and intriguing qualities of her thoughts.

*The Interactive Book* succeeds both ■ a document of one individual's ride through the bumpy rapids of the new media industry and as a manifesto of what that industry should attempt. Again, ■ with *From Myst To Riien*, this ■ near-essential book for anyone looking for general insight into the interactive media world or attempting to glean career advice about how to advance once within it. Pearce doesn't make it look easy, but she's certainly enjoyed herself and the work she's done along the way.

For a little more background ■ Pearce, check her "text-only, all-browser, plug-in free, low-bandwidth, high informational content" Web site ■ [www.momentum-media.com/](http://www.momentum-media.com/).

## GROWING UP DIGITAL

Despite his irritating and near incessant ■ of the word "boomer" to describe those between the ages of ■ and 52, Don Tapscott, in *Growing Up Digital—The Rise of the Net Generation*, finally presents ■ good case for interactive media producing both a new mindset in and a new world for what he calls "N-Generals," the currently teenage-and-under echo of the baby boom born since 1977. Of course, the concept of the screenger is nothing new, but Tapscott fleshes out what it means for them now and for society in the future.

His central thesis is that the eruption of the Web over the past few years, ■ particular its use for two-way communication and chat by "N-Generals," along with the general longer-term use of interactive multimedia ■ education and entertainment, essentially sets the stage for completely new attitudes towards media and society ■ the young.

We've heard the argument piecemeal from others before, mostly from partisan and relatively young voices reporting from the midst of the melee. Tapscott, however, is something of a "boomer" himself and, while hardly impartial or uninvolved, somehow manages ■ step far

enough out of the fastest part of the stream to produce some sense of objectivity. He also provides analysis of the various ways different scenarios might evolve, rather than simply proclaiming the ascendancy of the young. Beyond that, he makes a strong plea for fairness on social and economic issues by both age group.

A large part of his argument revolves around the differences between the famously passive-inducing TV and the amazingly active-producing Internet. While Tapscott argues his case vehemently, I am neither entirely convinced that TV had all the effects ascribed to it in the '60s, particularly when it came to communication between various members of what was then known ■ "The Underground," nor that what he describes as widespread beneficial attitudes among "N-Generals" are as widespread as will be as long-term as he thinks.

A large part of Tapscott's material ■ from his own children and his Web site where he gathered opinions from visiting "N-Generals" other material came from commentary collected by monitors on other youth sites. The problem is that this sounds rather like ■ self-selected sample of the elite to me. Many of the opinions sound like expressions of the fairly typical idealistic and overly hip arrogance and naiveté endemic to those without much experience in the cruel world. Much of what he proposes and projects requires ■ radical readjustments by economic and political institutions, institutions that have certainly made some accommodations to boomers' demands over the past 30 years in matters of style, but have not fundamentally changed their attitudes.

Being a malcontent myself, I really hope that Tapscott is right. As a skeptic, I recognize the strength of his case, but reservations linger. I am, however, convinced of his good intentions—he is not just a pundit grinding his favorite axe. His chapter on the issues currently facing the educational system, what is required for justice and fairness to be done in educating the children of today and tomorrow, and possible digital media improvements and techniques, reveal a man who cares deeply in his heart about children and their opportunities.

If there is one serious problem with *Growing Up Digital*, it is not with Tapscott's overall argument or his methods. It ■ that some of the writing is choppy, jumping about wildly within paragraphs, making it occasionally difficult to understand what he really means. He thanks ■

# MultiMedia & BEYOND

MULTIMEDIA 101 *continued*

editors, two of them, in the Acknowledgments, but there are passages that definitely need to be smoothed out.

In addition, there are a large number of typos scattered throughout the book. Unfortunately, this is also a problem with *The Interactive Book*. Some imply that the manuscript wasn't even run through a spell-checker, others that it wasn't competently proofread.

One of Tapscott's big points about the Internet is that, whatever its multimedia future, today it is a reading and writing communication medium. It might be acceptable to be colloquial and use idiosyncratic spelling in chat and email, but when it comes to presenting a serious argument in a book, the standards are higher. Unfortunately, publishers often seem to feel that new media means cheap media, and are not prepared to pay for quality production work even when the medium is as static and unforgiving as a book. As *From Myst To Raven* and the success of both titles show, attention to detail is crucial in making something, even something non-static, fully believable.

Even with that drawback and some other minor quibbles, *Growing Up Digital* is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in what's going on with at least some of the youth of today and what the future might hold for them. It's also an intriguing examination of the effects of different media on thought processes. If nothing else, the book should engage your own thought processes into consideration of what the effects of the popularity of the Internet might be beyond shopping at home, while also presenting some idealistic and hopeful possibilities about the outcome of widespread interactive media.

Overall, *Growing Up Digital* is a very optimistic book. Somehow it manages to avoid being too shrill about the future, although at times its relentless bashing of TV and boosting of the Web gets a little tedious.

Substantial portions of the book and related material can be found on its associated Web site at [www.growingupdigital.com](http://www.growingupdigital.com). Copyright © 1998 by Jonathan E. All rights reserved.

## RESOURCES:

MultiMedia—

**The Complete Guide \$45.95**

ISBN: 0-7894-0422-2

**101 Essential Tips**

**Exploring Multimedia \$3.95**

ISBN: 0-7894-1979-3

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**From Myst To Raven \$45**

By Richard Kadey

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**The Interactive Book \$39.99**

By Celia Pearce

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**Growing Up Digital \$22.95**

By Mark Tapscott

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### Having It Both Ways

On the one hand, internal drives are more spacewise than externals, but on the other, they are inconvenient for fixes, or upgrades and a real pain if you need to continuously move drives from one system to another (as in the case of this series, where I test SCSI drives in different systems, or different drives in the same system). Wouldn't it make much more sense to have internal drives as easily as externals?

Well, you can, by using removable drive enclosures. They consist of two parts: a receiving frame, to which the cables—SCSI/IDE from the controller and power from the power supply, connect; and a removable cartridge (or carrier), which contains the drive, and which plugs into the frame. The frame is then installed into a standard 5.25" bay and installs like a drive. The carrier accepts a 3.5" drive, which is then plugged into its SCSI/IDE and power connectors. When the frame is installed into a bay and a drive into the carrier, you pull the carrier with the drive and plug it into any other bay—with a frame—without hassling with screws, or cables. There are various products in the market; here are some considerations:

- They should have connectors for your specific drives (IDE, SCSI narrow, SCSI wide).
- They should accommodate drives from 1" (4.5GB) to 1 1/2" (if you have 9GB drives) high, firmly and with enough clearance between the drive and the cartridge's top and bottom (in accordance to drive manufacturer's specifications).

- They should be made of solid metal, not flimsy plastic. And, preferably, they should have been tested with the kind of drives you will be using it for. This is particularly important for 10,000 RPM and even 7,200 RPM hard drives, which tend to get hot.

Some carriers have small fans in the back, which is a desirable feature, though not a substitute for a case's fan and good air circulation. Another convenient feature is the ability to set the SCSI ID on the carrier, eliminating the need to fool with jumpers on the drive itself (except once, when you install the drive into the cartridge, of course).

There are two types of enclosures—for hard and for removable disk drives (such as the Syjet, or tape). It is particularly important to verify the latter's compatibility with your specific removable disk drive, as they are not as standardized as the hard drives. Note that both types require exposed bays, of course. Because they are 5.25", CD-ROM drives are too big to fit into a removable enclosure, so if you need removability, use an external drive.

In the absence of standard specifications, products differ from one another in various ways. But recently Compaq has been pushing a lot of such specifications—called DeviceBay—and persuaded Intel and Microsoft to support it. While it's just about time for the concept, these specifications are not inexpensive to implement and, besides, they are in the early stages (see the Resources section for more information).

I selected products for evaluation: Kingston's Data Express DE100 (hard drives) and DE150 (removables). Anil CRU's DataPort VI (hard drives), sold by California PC Products with their **CRU** logo.

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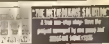
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February 21-22 Computer Fair. 2601 South Eastern Ave., Las Vegas. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

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February 25 "Network Computing Solutions for SCO Servers." Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa. The Santa Cruz Operation. Contact: 1-800-726-9889.

February 25-26 SENET Career Expo. Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim. SENET Career Expo. Contact: (626)336-8306, or <http://www.senetcareer.com>.

February 26-27 Java Seminar. Los Angeles. Contact: (212)242-7447, Fax: (212)242-7574, or <http://www.sig.com/conferences/javaseminars/>.

February 28-March 1 Computer Fair. Fairplex Expo Center, Pomona. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

#### March

March 1 MarketPro Computer Show ■ Sales. Scottish Rite Center, San Diego. MarketPro Shows. Contact: 1-800-708-7555 ■ <http://marketpro.com>.

March 3-5 Computer Telephony Conference and Exposition '98. Los Angeles. Contact: (215)355-2886, or <http://www.ctexpo.com>.

### MARCH 24-27

JavaOne 98 Developer Conference  
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Developers and industry leaders ■ poised to gather ■ Sun's upcoming 1998 Worldwide JavaOne Developer Conference in San Francisco, CA. This conference is set to be the best JavaOne Conference yet. This years attendance is expected ■ exceed last year's record setting crowd of over 10,000 developers, members of the press, industry leaders and Java technology enthusiasts. The conference's extensive schedule addresses the growing presence of Java technology-based innovations in the public and private sectors. The agenda includes a series of ■■■■■ that address the development of a growing base of consumer products using Java technology. Eight different categories also illustrate the explosion of Java technology within the marketplace. The growing presence of Java technology innovations in so many areas are sure to provide for an exciting ■ days in March and beyond. Now attendees can easily reserve their place, JavaOne online registration is available at <http://www.javaone.com>, and if registered before March 20th, attendees ■ save \$300.

### FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1

Computer Fair  
POMONA

Produced by National Productions, Inc., for over fourteen years, Computer Fair covers 100,000 square feet with over 300 exhibits featuring multimedia systems, notebook computers, software titles, modems, and other peripherals ■ discount pricing. Free prize giveaways every hour. Open 10-5 pm, admission \$8. For more information, call 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), ■ URL: <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

March 4-5 SENET Career Expo. San Diego Convention Center, San Diego. SENET Career Expo. Contact: (626)336-8306, or <http://www.senetcareer.com>.

March 7 Computer Fair. Sherman Square Entertainment Center, Reseda. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

March 7 Computer Super Shows. San Bernardino-Nat'l/Orange Show Fairgrounds. Super Show Productions. Contact: (714)838-5941.

March 8 American Mega Computer Shows. CSU, Northridge. American Mega Shows. Contact: (626)961-3782 or <http://www.megashow.com>.

March 8 Computer Fair. Sequoia Conference Center, Buena Park. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

March 14 Computer Super Shows. Glendale Civic Auditorium. Super Show Productions. Contact: (714)838-5941.

March 14-15 Computer Fair. 2601 South Eastern Ave., Las Vegas. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

March 15 Computer Super Shows. Riverside Convention Center. Super Show Productions. Contact: (714)838-5941.

March 15 American Mega Computer Shows. Pasadena Convention Center. American Mega Shows. Contact: (626)961-3782 or <http://www.megashow.com>.

March 16-20 Seybold Seminars New York/Publishing ■ New York. Contact: 1-888-600-8922, or <http://www.seyboldseminars.com>.

March 21-22 Computer Super Shows. Costa Mesa-Orange County Fairgrounds. Super Show Productions. Contact: (714)838-5941.

March 21-22 Computer Fair. Fairplex Expo Center, Pomona. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlst@aol.com](mailto:CMPlst@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

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Saturday & Sunday

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Turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

**March 7**  
Saturday

**RESEDA**

Sherman Square Entertainment Center  
From 101 Freeway take the Reseda offramp, go north to Sherman Way  
and turn right. Go one block to Conby Street. 18430 Sherman Way.

**March 8**  
Sunday

**BUENA PARK**

Sequoia Conference Center  
Take the Beach Blvd. exit off the 91 Freeway.  
Go one block north to 7530 Orangefarpe.

**March 21 & 22**  
Saturday & Sunday

**POMONA**

Fairplex Expo Complex (LA Fairgrounds)  
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Turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

**March 28**  
Saturday

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# Resources

## Calendar Of Events *continued...*

**March 28 Computer Fair.** Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**March 29 ACP Computer Swap Meet.** Santa Ana. ACP Superstore. Contact: (714)558-8813.

**March 31 ACP Computer Swap Meet.** Santa Ana. ACP Superstore. Contact: (714)558-8813.

## April

**April 4 Computer Fair.** Sherman Square Entertainment Center, Reseda. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**April 5 Computer Fair.** Sequoia Conference Center, Buena Park. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**April 11-12 Computer Fair.** Fairplex Expo Center, Pomona. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**April 21-22 SENET Career Expo.** Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles. SENET Career Expo. Contact: (626)336-8306, or <http://www.senetcareer.com>.

**April 25-28 Computer Fair.** 2601 South Eastern Ave., Las Vegas. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**April 27-29 Internet & Electronic Commerce Conference and Exposition (IEC).** New York, NY. Gartner Group. Contact: (203)256-4700, <http://www.iecexpo.com>, or <http://www.iecexpo.com>.

**April 27-30 DVC '98 Spring Conference and Exhibition.** Santa Clara. Contact: 1-800-227-1234, or <http://www.dvc.com>.

**April 27-May 1 IT Forum '98 San Francisco.** Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco. Miller Freeman. Contact: <http://www.itforum.com>.

**April 29-May 3 MacFair LA.** Burbank Airport Hilton and Convention Center, Los Angeles. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1824, or <http://www.macfair.com>.

## May

**May 2 Computer Fair.** Sherman Square Entertainment Center, Reseda. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**May 3 Computer Fair.** Sequoia Conference

Center, Buena Park. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**May 9-10 Computer Fair.** Fairplex Expo Center, Pomona. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**May 13-16 26th Annual Gutenberg Festival.** Long Beach. Gutenberg Expositions. Contact: (714)921-3120.

**May 16 Computer Fair.** Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

**May 17-22 International Symposium, Seminar, and Exhibition (SID '98).** Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim. The Society for Information Display. Contact: (212)620-3380.

**May 20-22 The Forum for Hand-Held Computing in Healthcare 1998.** New Orleans. World Market Strategies Ltd./PDA Inc. Contact: (415)641-2450.

**May 30-31 Computer Fair.** Fairplex Expo Center, Pomona. National Productions. Contact: 1-800-800-5600, [CMPlist@aol.com](mailto:CMPlist@aol.com), or <http://www.lacomputerfair.com>.

## Classes, Seminars, Workshops

### February

**February 21 Adobe Photoshop 4.0.** Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

**February 22 Internet Workshop for Beginners.** Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

**February 23-April 27 UNIX Utilities for Systems Programmers.** Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton Extension. Contact: (714)278-2611.

**February 24-April 28 UNIX Utilities for System Administrators.** Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton Extension. Contact: (714)278-2611.

### March

**March 1 HTML Basic Web Designing.** Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

**March 1-22 Microsoft Word 97, Part 1.** Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton Extension.

Contact: (714)278-2611.

**March 9-18 Advanced Adobe Illustrator.** Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton Extension. Contact: (714)278-2611.

**March 10-12 Hands-On Intro to AfterEffects.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 10-13 Remote Sensing Data Analysis, Visualization and Animation.** Los Angeles UCLA Extension. Contact: (310)825-3344, [mhennes@unix.ucla.edu](mailto:mhennes@unix.ucla.edu), or <http://www.unex.ucla.edu/shortcourses>.

**March 12 Before You Buy A Mac Class.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 13-14 Hands-On Intro to Director Class.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 14 Oracle ■ Oracle Financials Class.** Bellflower. Computer Resolutions. Contact: (562)804-0470, or <http://www.computer-resolutions.com>.

**March 14 Intro to Photoshop Class.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 14-April 4 Microsoft Access 97, Part II.** Fullerton. Cal State Fullerton Extension. Contact: (714)278-2611.

**March 15 Intro. to Windows '95.** Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

**March 17 Hands-On Intro to QuarkXPress.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March ■ Best Deals ■ the Internet.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 20 Hands-On Beginning Mac.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 21 Photoshop Power.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 21 Windows for Mac Users.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

**March 21 Hands-On Beyond HTML.** Santa Monica. LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>.

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- Mar. 14th Sat. \$5. GLENDALE CIVIC AUDITORIUM (City of Glendale)**  
1401 N. Verdugo Rd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hwy to Mountain, Westbound to Corner of N. Verdugo
- Mar. 15th Sun. \$5. RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER (Riverside)**  
2443 Orange St., 91 Hwy to University, Westbound to Orange
- Mar. 21-22 Sat/Sun \$5. ORANGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (Costa Mesa)**  
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## APRIL 1998

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- Apr. 18-19 Sat/Sun \$5. GLENDALE CIVIC AUDITORIUM (City of Glendale)**  
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MS Word 6.0 for MAC	\$149	Black & White 6	\$149
MS Word 97 for PC	\$199	Projector 7.0	\$199
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# Resources

Calendar Of Events continued

March 21 Adobe Photoshop 4.0. Long Beach MegaByte Coffeehouse  
Contact: (562)986-6892

March 22 Internet Workshop for Beginners. Long Beach MegaByte  
Coffeehouse Contact: (562)986-6892

March 23-30 Find It On The Internet. Fullerton, Cal State Fullerton  
Extension. Contact: (714)278-2611.

March 24 Hands-On Intermediate Quark. Santa Monica. LAMG  
Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>

March 25 Hands-On Advanced Beginning Mac. Santa Monica. LAMG  
Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>

March 27-28 Hands-On Intro to Photoshop. Santa Monica. LAMG.  
Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>

March 28 Upgrading to System 8.1. Santa Monica. LAMG Contact:  
(310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>

March 31-April 1 Hands-On Inter-Adv Photoshop. Santa Monica.  
LAMG. Contact: (310)319-1821, [lamg@lamg.org](mailto:lamg@lamg.org), or <http://www.lamg.org>

April 5 HTML Basic Web Designing. Long Beach. MegaByte  
Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

April 11 Oracle & Oracle Financials Class. Bellflower. Computer  
Resolutions. Contact: (562)804-0470, or <http://www.computer-resolutions.com>

April 19 Intro to Windows '95 Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse.  
Contact: (562)986-6892.

April Adobe Photoshop 4.0. Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse  
Contact: (562)986-6892.

April 26 Internet Workshop for Beginners. Long Beach MegaByte  
Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

## May

May 3 HTML Basic Web Designing. Long Beach. MegaByte  
Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892

May Oracle Oracle Financials Class. Bellflower. Computer  
Resolutions. Contact: (562)804-0470, or <http://www.computer-resolutions.com>

May 17 Intro to Windows '95. Long Beach MegaByte Coffeehouse  
Contact: (562)986-6892.

May Adobe Photoshop 4.0. Long Beach. MegaByte Coffeehouse.  
Contact: (562)986-6892.

May 24 Internet Workshop for Beginners. Long Beach MegaByte  
Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892

## June

June 7 HTML Basic Web Designing. Long Beach MegaByte  
Coffeehouse. Contact: (562)986-6892.

June 13 Oracle & Oracle Financials Class. Bellflower. Computer  
Resolutions. Contact: (562)804-0470, or <http://www.computer-resolutions.com>

June 21 Intro to Windows '95. Long Beach MegaByte Coffeehouse  
Contact: (562)986-6892.

June 27 Adobe Photoshop 4.0. Long Beach MegaByte Coffeehouse  
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# Resources

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### MULTIZONE

**AceWeb Network.** Multizone (818)891-0397, 782-3589, 240-6356, (805) 257-1690, (213)255-1603, (310)473-5375. <http://www.aceweb.net>. Internet access, PPP, chat, files, TradeWars, MUO, Match-Maker, forums, 500 CDs, 10MB Web site included, free trial period. [Exp #181]

**Brain Toys** Multizone (818)898-3550, 557-8697, 707-4476, 700-9877, (213) 255-4495, (310)858-0070. <http://www.braintoys.com>. or telnet free. braintoys. MajorMud, 32 lines, TradeWars, DOOM 2, Backgammon, chat Full Multizone, first month free, all ages [Exp #178]

**Coffee Break BBS.** Multizone (210)425-5710, 320-5000, (714)670-6500, 572-8800, 537-4300, 262-1200, (818)951-1700, 447-6100, 797-6400. General interest, files, chat, MajorMud, TradeWars, files, email Free trial Ultimate caffeine buzz! Sysop [Exp #176]

**Online Multizone** (310)838-1707, 352-4199, (862)421-2470, (714)548-1590, 528-7225. <http://www.edwards.com>. Full Internet access. Play the hottest games with the most people over the Net! Major Mud parties, online games, chat, files, free trial! Sysop Daniel Vesely. [Exp #178]

**BBS.** Multizone (213) 490-0556, 330-1609, 531-1608, (310)819-0554, 765-0554, 735-0554, 734-0554, 554-0534, (626)352-0684.

639-0554, (714)869-1501, 676-1501, 782-1502, 591-0554, 930-1601, 481-0028, 485-0028, 653-0309, 849-0574, (818)742-0554, 741-0572, (909)689-4534. <http://bbs.ace.com>. Telnet: bbs.ace.com 24 hrs., 2400-56,000 Support for Amiga, IBM, Mac Email, full Internet, online games, messages, bases, files area. Fidonet, chatting, and MORE! Free and pay accounts available. [Exp #178]

**Hate California.** Multizone (562)407-1300, 507-1321, (407)407-1321, (714)49-9051, 792-0460, 766-3318, 895-3966, (818)585-1974, 702-8708, 444-5560, 783-4316, 842-9275, (909)824-0745, Telnet: kincycy.com 24 hrs., up to 33,600.

MMUD, 3 chat areas, Game Connection, full Internet access, free trial. [Exp #176]

**Miller's Party Board.** Multizone (213)569-9191, 727-0231, (310)815-0117, 212-3469, (562)425-7264, 929-4304, (626)571-5880, 961-2458, (714)220-0887, 537-4436, (818)240-8296, 769-2302, 882-0142, Telnet: mjb.com 24 hrs., 28,800 Chat, MajorMud, TradeWars 2002, full Internet access, forums, library, modems, gaming Seven-day free trial Sysop Jim Stern [Exp #176]

**Twilight Hills BBS.** Multizone (562)868-8470, (626)571-0063, (714)730-8242, 774-6146 24 hrs., 14,400-28,800 Running MS85, major games, MajorMud, many more, free trial, 24 hrs., 2400-56,000 Support for Amiga, IBM, Mac Email, full Internet access, forums, library, modems, gaming Seven-day free trial Sysop Anthony L. [Exp #178]

**Westside.** Multizone (213) 315-4444, (310)484-1077,

(562)634-9351, (626)723-4444, (714)487-4571, (805)526-2395, (818)999-5557, (909)349-2316. Games, chat, meets More! Free 14-day trial [Exp #177]

### 310

**Los Angeles Macintosh Group BBS.** (310)451-LAMG 8-N-1, 24 hrs. FirstClass, 16 lines 40,000 calls/month Shareware, forums include DTP, multimedia, WWW, employment exchange, classifieds, [Exp #176]

**South Bay Apple Mac User Group BBS.** (310)792-8083 FirstClass Large library, multiple conferences. <http://www.sbmug.org> [Exp #176]

**Turbo Time BBS.** (310) 642-7519 8-N-1, 24 hrs., 300-144 New graphical interface Come see the changes! Files, messages, WWW, Free Sysop Michael Hildale [Exp #176]

### 562

**Rushdoka! BBS.** (562)698-8719 8-N-1, 24 hrs., 33,600 ANSI/RIP, subs, files, games, multi-line/line works, free access, WWW v4.2a Log on to "guest" Sysop The Animal. [Exp #176]

**Dalecom Online Dating Service.** (562)799-6191, 9600-28,800 Photo personals, chat, private email, entertainment. [Exp #176]

**Telery.** (562)494-0909, Telnet: telery.com, <http://telery.com>. Chat, online casino, games, LORD, Invia, free Internet email/homepage Sysops Cobra & LUS [Exp #179]

### 626

**Tele-Link Online.** (626) 339-5796, 966-4420 8-N-1, 24 hrs., 33,600 Free, 16 KB, Internet for 259-year with browser Sysop DeRonge [Exp #178]

### 714

**Social Injustice.** (714) 564-0319 28,800 Games, files, messages, more Free access Sysop William Haworth [Exp #178]

**The Abyss BBS.** (714)848-9920, 8-N-1, 24 hrs., 300-33,600 WWW/Venet, Fidonet echos, message bases, free file transfer section, online games and more. No fee! Sysop Byte [Exp #181]

**The Midnight Mission BBS.** (714)848-6808 8-N-1, 24 hrs., 2400-33,600 Large game/files areas. Full access with call-back Sysop Marty Strech [Exp #176]

**The VIBA Connection.** (714)454-7751 8-N-1, 24 hrs., up to 33,600 Free access Files, games, forums, CD-ROM filebase. Since 2/94 Sysop Robert Cio [Exp #178]

### 818

**Earthquake City BBS.** (818)368-3337; <http://members.tripod.com/~eqcity/bbs/index.htm> 8-N-1, 24 hrs., 33,600 Free All ages Files, messages, Games Fee for Internet email, 1GB online Sysop Steven Libs. [Exp #176]

**Ethereality BBS.** (818) 884-6700 14,400-33,600 Free user level, chat, files, LORD, TW, BRC, Coolnet BBS any format. Donations start at \$3.00. [Exp #176]

### 909

**Black Hole Sun.** (909) 597-7051 9 pm-6 am 14,400 Messages, files, Match-Maker, and international newtun games [Exp #176]

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US [ ] MicroTimes User Group, 1300 Clay St., Ste. [ ] Oakland, CA 94612. Faxes are welcome at (510)768-1288. Email can be sent to: [sarah.tompson@microtimes.com](mailto:sarah.tompson@microtimes.com) or MLC.MICROTIMES.

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- Intel Pentium® MMX™ 233MHz ... \$230
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- Intel Pentium® MMX™ 166MHz ... \$128
- Intel Pentium® 150MHz ... \$115
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- Smartlink 33.6K Int'l Voice ... \$50
- Smartlink 56.6K Int'l Voice ... \$80

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- Keytronic Key ... \$22
- Generic 104-Key ... \$12

### CASES

- Full Tower + P/S ... \$85
- 17" Tower + P/S ... \$29/25
- Full/Mid Tower + P/S ATX Case ... \$75/95

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# Resources

## USER GROUPS

### AMIGA

**Amiga-San Gabriel Valley (ATUG).** Meetings: 3rd Sat., 11 am-4 pm, 1st Southern Baptist Church, 4856 Mo. Golden West Ave., Temple City Contact: Steve, (626)285-6424 [Exp.#179]

**ATESIO-Atari 8-Bit SIG.** 145 Surf Pl., Seal Beach. Cooperative group for model and road applications Contact: (562)430-5433 or d.mcallister@genie.com [Exp.#176]

### COMMODORE

**C&TUG.** Meetings: 2nd and 4th Sun., 12:00-4:30pm, 700 W. Olive, Orange, for friendship, advice, and Commodore computer SIGs library SIG disks, monthly newsletters and much more. Contact: Lou Palush, (714)532-1802 [Exp.#176]

**Commodore-Apple Helpers of Long Beach.** Meetings: 2nd Sat., 9:00 am, Community Presbyterian Church, 1100 Orange Ave., North Long Beach Dues are \$10 and a bi-monthly publication with Mac PD info. Contact: Carol Martin [Exp.#176]

### COREL

**OCUG (Orange Coast Corel User Group).** Meetings: 1st Sat., 9:00 am, Huntington Beach Adult School, 1666 Tunstall Ln., Huntington Beach. Dues are a cent. COREL instructor, newsletter, giveaway, guest experts, all welcome. Contact: Wayne Kaplan, (714)968-2509 or wkaplan@comcast-cog [Exp.#181]

### IBM AND COMPARIBLES

**Greater South Bay PC Users Group.** Meetings: 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm, Torrance Recreation Center, Torrance

library Contact: (310) 373-3989, or bob.hudak@comcast.net [Exp.#179]

**Long Beach IBM PC SIG.** Meetings: 3rd Wed., 7:00 pm, 1100 Temple, 5155 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach. We welcome the IBM and the experienced SIGs. Contact: Jim Wells, (310)439-7114 [Exp.#181]

**Los Angeles Computer Society.** Meetings: 3rd Tues., 7 pm, Robert Frost Auditorium, Culver City High School, 4401 Elenda St., Culver City. Door prizes, vendor presentations, product review, special interest groups. BBS wilderness email Contact: (310)471-2726, or http://gscs.csl.com/~lacs page/ [Exp.#181]

**MCCCC (North Orange County Computer Club).** Meetings: 1st Sun., 9:00 am, Chapman University, 333 N. Glassell Ave., Orange. Speakers on hardware, software, Internet, 25 SIGs, demonstrations, newsletter, helpline, raffles, consignment table, membership. Call: (714) 995-0808 or http://www.noccc.org [Exp.#182]

**Orange County IBM PC Users Group.** Meetings: 2nd Tues., 6:30 pm. Speakers, software, newsletter, BBS open to public. We welcome SIGs. (714)990-0580, or ocpug@prodigy.com [Exp.#181]

**Pasadena IBM Users Group.** Meetings: 1st Wed., 7:00-9:30 pm, 2184 N. Lake Ave., Altadena. Speakers on hardware, software, demonstrations. SIG library. Web site: www.Ibmvibe.net, (626)791-1300, or http://www.pasadenatug.org [Exp.#181]

**Saddleback Valley PC Users Group.** Meetings: 3rd Sat., 9:00 am, Saddleback College, 28000 Marguerite Pkwy., Torrance

205, Business and General Studies Bldg., Mission Viejo. Newsletter, question/answer period, demos, shareware software library. Beginners welcome. Contact: (714)582-4623 or Jerome Mandelco [Exp.#181]

**San Gabriel Valley Technology Users Group.** Meetings: 2nd Fri., 7:00 pm, Arcadia Park Senior Citizens Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia. Support for Tandy and IBM compatibles, newsletter, RAM session. Contact: Jack Nock, (626)578-0411, or jack.nock@worldnet.att.net [Exp.#181]

**Santa Clarita Valley PC Group.** Meetings: 2nd Weds., 7:00 pm, Valencia Town Center Community Room, Contact: (805)288-1680 [Exp.#179]

**Southern California Computer Society.** Meetings: 4th Tues., 7:00 pm, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Rossmore Mall, 12335 S. Bvd., Los Alamitos. SIGs in IBM and compatible computers, newsletter. \$20/yr. Contact: Don Schmidt, (562)424-6534 [Exp.#176]

**Thousand Oaks Personal Computer Club (TOPCC).** Meetings: 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm, Geibel Senior Center, 1355 S. Janss Rd. Thousand Oaks Programs targeted to novice to expert levels. Computer knowledge. Contact: Harry, (805)456-8322 or hll (805) [Exp.#181]

**Valley Computer Club (VCC).** Meetings: 2nd Tues., 7:00 pm, Burbank YMCA, 321 E. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. (wheelchair accessible) Vendor presentations. Contact: Grayce (818)842-3707, or valley@pacbell.net, or http://www.pasadenatug.org/burkvalley [Exp.#178]

### MACINTOSH

**Chapman O.S. Mac Pretrialator (CHOMP).**

Meetings: 4th Thurs., 7:00 pm, Bauer Forum, Claremont, McCanna College, Claremont. O.S.A. raffle of useful software, vendor presentations, exchange views, opinions, expertise. Contact: Al Seltzer, (809)626-7784 or AlSeltzer@aol.com or Mitch Cohen, (909)605-1000, ext. 11, or http://www.champ mug.org [Exp.#181]

**Los Angeles Macintosh Group (LAMG).** Meetings: 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm, Call for location. Vendor presentations, raffle, 25+ SIGs, seminars, BBS, monthly magazine. Guests welcome. Contact: (310) 318-1821 or http://www.lamg.org [Exp.#178]

**MacWomen Users Group.** Meetings: 3rd Sun., 2:00 pm, LAMG Resource Center, Santa Monica Jai. For demos, discussion and troubleshooting for the Macintosh. Network among fellow Mac-using women in a variety of careers. Will welcome. Contact: Darlene Raker, (310)374-2211 [Exp.#176]

**Mac Apple Mac User Group.** Meetings: Last Thurs., 7:30 pm, Knub Hill Community Center, 320 Knub Hill, Redondo. Newsletter, PD library, demos, and software raffles. Contact: C.W. Michalek, (310)644-3315 [Exp.#176]

**West Orange County User Group (WOCUG).** Meetings: 2nd Tues., 7:00 pm, Emerson Elementary School, 2825 Ingle, Long Beach. Palo Verde and Willow The "Friendliest Mac Club" features O.S.A. news about O.S.A. vendor presentations, demos, raffles, and a newsletter. Contact: Lynn, (714)992-8910 [Exp.#176]

**Whittier Area Macintosh User Group.** Meetings: 1st Sat., 9:30 am, 1st Church, 14322 Telegraph Rd., Whittier. SIGs. Seminars. Contact: O.S.A. SIGs, or http://www.sigs.com/ter Contact: (562)506-

0059 or http://www.pcc cities.com/SiliconValley/Power/6042 [Exp.#181]

### NETWORKING

**OCNET-Orange County NetWare Users Group.** Meetings: 2nd Tues., 6:30 pm, Novell, 18101 Von Karman, 5th floor, Irvine. Specialties in Novell NetWare solutions. Contact: (714)258-7832 [Exp.#182]

**Orange County Network Gaming Group.** Play multiplayer games on a LAN. Date/time/location to be announced. Contact: Neil, (714)840-9011, outlive@linkline.com [Exp.#181]

### WINDOWS

**Power Graphics User Network (PGUN).** Meetings: Last Tues., 7:30 pm, Glendale Winnetka-based graphics and publishing applications (CorelDRAW, Ventura Publisher, Picture Publisher, etc.)

Kais PowerTools and techniques for image editing, Web Design, 3-D, multimedia, etc. Contact: Randy Tobin, (818)955-5830, or http://www.theidatdata.com [Exp.#181]

**VANTUG-Valley Area NT Users Group.** Meetings: 2nd Tues., 6:30 pm, MicroAge, 8120 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys. Beginner advanced, presentations, O.S.A. SIGs, excellent topics. Contact: Jim Webster, (818)710-1800, web@net.net, or http://www.vantug.org [Exp.#179]

**WINNERS-WINDOWS users.** Meetings: 2nd Sat., 9:00 am, Orange Coast College, Science Bldg., Room #145, 2701 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa. All Windows covered, industry speakers, tips and tricks. Software library, newsletter, Internet SIG. Everyone welcome. Contact: (714) 644-5782, or http://members.aol.com/cowinners [Exp.#176]

## ASSOCIATIONS

**ATIP-California Southland Association of Information Technology Professionals.** Meetings: 3rd Thurs., 6:30 pm, Gateway Plaza Holiday Inn, 14299 Valley View, La Mirada (I-5 @ Valley View exit) professional association providing policy, management topics, networking, education to the Orange County/LA Area. Contact: Cathy Grammer-Margolin, (714) 647-1617 or 645-5950, http://members.aol.com/calsouthipa [Exp.#179]

**Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA).** Meetings: 2nd Thurs., 6:00 pm, Spotnitz's Lodge, 12625 San Gabriel Blvd., Studio City. Promoting professional, expertise,

and ethics in the provision of computer services and awareness of the availability of such services by independent professionals (213)372-1811 [Exp.#179]

**Internet Developers Association.** Meetings: 2nd Tues., 7:00 pm, 21st St., 1999 Ave. at the Century City Hotel, with fellow Web developers. Free presentations at each meeting. Contact: Conna Meubius, (310)397-8054 [Exp.#179]

**Webmasters' Guild.** Meetings: The country's first professional association of Webmasters. An OC chapter. Contact: Susette Blase, stblase@earthlink.net [Exp.#179]

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Toshiba Liberte 50CT/50CT	\$1299/CALL

## NOTEBOOKS

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11950CS / T1950CT	\$599/649
12300T/2300SX 2 ISA Slots	\$299/CALL
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16400 486DX/8 MB, 200MB	SCALL
16950CS/CT	\$699/799
NT400 CS Multimedia 4x CD	\$799
11900C 486, 8MB, COLOR	\$549
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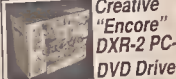
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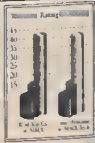
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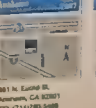
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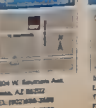
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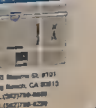
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 WIN 95 CD 8 MANUAL  
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**OMEGA 2400 \$1548**

**INTEL PENTIUM II 233MHZ**  
 INTEL LX AGP 512K PIPELINE  
 32MB SDRAM MEMORY  
 4 368 ULTRA DMA HDD  
 3DFX Voodoo RUSH 6MB  
 MITSUBISHI 144 FLOPPY DRIVE  
 TOSHIBA 32X EIDE ■■■ ROM  
**II 266MHZ** DIRECTX 3D WAVEABLE SOUND  
 LOGITECH MOUSE  
**II 300MHZ** 17" DIGITAL ■■■ NI 1600X1280  
 LOGITECH MOUSE  
**II 333MHZ** ■■■ MULTIMEDIA KEYBOARD  
 ATX TOWER CASE  
 56K ROCKWELL VOICE MODEM  
 SR2 3 COWIN 95 CD 8 MANUAL  
 WINTADAPTMENT 500 TITLES

**OMEGA 1800 \$1169**

**INTEL PENTIUM II 233MHZ**  
 INTEL DX LX AGP  
 32MB SDRAM MEMORY  
 3 268 ULTRA DMA ■■■  
 53 VIDEOR 3D 4MB HIPS  
 144 FLOPPY DRIVE  
**II 266MHZ** ■■■ MAX EIDE CD ROM  
 BLASTER  
 COMPATIBLE SOUND  
 AMPLIFIED SPEAKER  
**II 300MHZ** 17" ■■■ DIGITAL 28 NI 1280X1024  
 LOGITECH MOUSE  
 ■■■ 95 KEYBOARD  
**II 333MHZ** ATX TOWER CASE  
 56K ROCKWELL VOICE MODEM  
 SR2 3 COWIN 95 CD 8 MANUAL  
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**OMEGA 900 \$1079**

**AMD K6 233** CYRIX MX-200 +MHZ  
**\$1149** INTEL 512K CACHE  
 32MB EDO  
 4 368 ULTRA-DMA HDD  
 53 ■■■ 3D DX ■■■ EDO  
 144 FLOPPY DRIVE  
**INTEL MMX 166** TOSHIBA ■■■ EIDE CD ROM  
 YAMAHA 3D SOUND  
 AMPLIFIED SPEAKERS  
**INTEL MMX 200** 17" ■■■ MONITOR  
 LOGITECH MOUSE  
 105 ■■■ KEYBOARD  
**OMEGA 600/900 CASE**  
 56K FLEX VOICE MODEM  
**INTEL MMX 233** SR2 3 COWIN 95 CD 8 MANUAL  
 WINTADAPTMENT 500 TITLES

**OMEGA 500 \$649**

**INTEL 166MHZ** INTEL PENTIUM 166MHZ  
 512K CACHE  
 32MB ■■■ MEMORY  
 2 168 ■■■  
 1 44 ■■■ W/ HIPS  
 144 FLOPPY DRIVE  
**II 200MHZ** 24X MAX EIDE CD ROM  
 SOUND BLASTER  
 COMPATIBLE SOUND  
 AMPLIFIED SPEAKERS  
**INTEL MMX 166** 14" ■■■ MONITOR  
 DESIGNER MOUSE  
 105 TURBO KEYBOARD  
 TOWER CASE  
**INTEL MMX 200** 32K VOICE MODEM  
 WIN 95 CD 8 MANUAL  
 WINTADAPTMENT 500 TITLES

# YTG Graphics and Video Center

## DELUXE SYSTEM

Intel Pentium CPU  
 Intel TX Chipset Mother Board  
 (up to 300 MHz MMX)  
 2.1 GB Hard Disk (<10 MS.) Ultra ATA  
 24XCD ROM (Toshiba or Sony)  
 32 MB SDRAM (10 ns)  
 64 Bit 3D MPEG SVGA, 2 MB  
 16 Bit Sound Card  
 80 W Speakers  
 2 Serial / 1 Parallel Ports / Mouse  
 33,600 FAX / Modem (TI Chipset)  
 3-1/2" Floppy Drive (Sony)  
 Mid-Tower Case w/ 230 W  
 104 Keyboard w/ Palm Rest  
 OSR2 Windows95 CD/Manual  
 2 Years Parts Labor Warranty  
 (for hardware only, restriction applied)

Intel MMX 166 MHz ..... \$ 720  
 MMX 200 MHz ..... \$ 780

## YAMA Monitor

Vision Master PRO, 3 Year Warranty  
 MT-9017E, 17", 1600 x 1280 @ 72 Hz  
 1280 x 1024 @ 85 Hz  
 1024 x 768 @ 100 Hz  
 .25 mm, absolutely clear &  
 flicker Free ..... \$615  
 MT-450, 19", Flat Screen  
 18" Viewable Area, 1600x1280  
 .26 mm, Flicker Free at any  
 resolution ..... \$835  
 MT-8021, 21", Shadow Mask  
 .22 mm (H) / .16 mm (V)  
 1800x1440 @ 75 Hz  
 Bright & Clear ..... \$1190  
 MT-9221, 21", Aperture Gril  
 .28 mm (H) / .00 mm (V)  
 1800 x 1440 @ 75 Hz  
 Bright & Clear ..... \$1250

## Shamrock Monitor - 3 Year Warranty

17", 28mm, 1280 x 1024 ..... \$ 355  
 17", 26 mm, 1280 x 1024 ..... \$ 375  
 15", 28 mm, 1240, Digital ..... \$ 185  
 14", 28 mm, 1024, Digital ..... \$ 140

## ViewSonic

PT 770, 17", .25 mm, 1600x1280 ..... \$ 615  
 P810, 21", .25 mm, 1800x1280 ..... \$ 1125  
 P815, 21", .25 mm, 1800x1440 ..... \$ 1250

## PII UPGRADE KIT

Intel LX Chipset Mother Board  
 (Accepting EDO or SDRAM, upto MMX 300 MHZ CPU)  
 AT Form Factor Mid-Tower Case  
 230 W Power Supply  
 Built-In Ultra - DMA IDE Dual Channel Bus  
 Built-In Floppy Controller  
 2 Serial / 1 Parallel Port  
 PS 2 Mouse Port  
 With PII MMX 233 MHZ CPU ..... \$465  
 With PII MMX 266 MHZ CPU ..... \$570  
 With PII MMX 300 MHZ CPU ..... \$730

## SVGA Video:

(\*) Open GL 3D

### Diamond

Viper, V330, AGP, 4MB ..... \$159  
 (\*) Fire GL 1000 Pro, AGP, 4MB/8MB .... \$155/\$199  
 (\*) Fire GL 3000 Glin+500, 8VT/16D ..... \$880

### Matrox

Mystique II, 4MB ..... \$110  
 (\*) Millennium II, 4MB, AGP ..... \$189  
 (\*) Millennium II, 8MB, AGP ..... \$259  
 Rainbow Runner ..... \$158

### Number 9

(\*) Revolution 3 D, AGP, 4MB/8MB ..... \$189/\$229  
 Reality334, AGP, 4MB  
 (Dual Monitor on NT4) ..... \$110

### ATI

All-in-wonder Pro, AGP, 4 MB  
 (Video Capture, TV Tuner/ In/out,  
 2D/3D, 1600x1200) ..... \$235  
 (\*) XPERT@play, AGP, 4MB/8MB ..... \$159/\$219  
 3D Xpression PC2TV, 4MB ..... \$ 89

## HARD DRIVE

### Western Digital

■ 2.1GB Caviar ..... \$140  
 ■ 2.5GB Caviar ..... \$150  
 ■ 3.2 GB (Ultra ATA) AC33200 ..... \$185  
 ■ 4.3 (Ultra ATA) AC34300 ..... \$210

### IBM

■ 6.4 GB Ultra ATA ..... \$270  
 ■ 8.4 GB Ultra ATA ..... \$340



**PENTIUM II CENTER:** From DVD systems to optimized CAD/CAM work stations. These A to Z configurations feature **Genuine Intel Atlanta Mother Boards**, along with 2 years parts and labor warranty, at prices that are: **"too good to be true!"**

### P II DVD-Complete System

Intel Pentium II CPU, MMX  
Built-In 512 KB Internal Cache  
**Intel Atlanta LX Mother Board/AGP**  
4.3 GB Hard Disk, Ultra-DMA, <10ms (WDC)  
64 MB SDRAM (10 ns)  
**ATI Expert @ play 3D SVGA w/ 4MB, AGP** (open GL TV out)  
**DVD-ROM Drive /W MPEG II Decoder Card** (Toshiba)  
YAMAHA Sound OPL4 /w AWE  
Speakers w/ Subwoofer  
**Imega Zip Drive /w 100 MB Disk**  
Logitech PS2 Mouse / PS2 Key Board  
3 1/2" Floppy Drive  
55,600 FAX / Modem / Voice (TI, X2)  
ATX Mid-Tower Case /w Power Supply  
OSR2 Win95/Manual  
**2 Years Parts and Labor Warranty**  
Intel MMX PII 233 MHz ..... \$1675  
266 MHz ..... \$1775  
300 MHz ..... \$1895

### DVD VIDEO/AUDIO EDITING SYSTEM

Intel Pentium II, CPU, MMX  
Intel LX 440 Chipset Mother Board/AGP  
6.4 GB Ultra-DMA, <10 MS (W.D.C. or IBM)  
96 MB SDRAM (10 ns)  
**ATI Wonder Pro. SVGA w/ 4MB AGP**  
(Video Playback/capture, TV Turner/out/in,  
1600x1200 Res. @ 85 Hz)  
**Sound Blaster AWE 64 Sound Card**  
Super woofer w/ Satellite Speakers  
DVD-Rom Drive w/ MPEG II Decoder  
(Toshiba, Comp. with 20x CD ROM)  
Imega Zip Drive w/ 100MB Disk  
3 1/2" Floppy Drive (Sony)  
55,600 Fax/Modem/Voice (TI, X2)  
Logitech PS2 Mouse/ PS Keyboard  
ATX Mid-Tower with 250 W power  
OSR2 Win95 CD/ Manual  
**2 Years Parts & Labor Warranty**  
Intel MMX PII 233 MHz ..... \$1850  
266 MHz ..... \$1950  
300 MHz ..... \$2075

### P II Atlanta Complete

Intel Atlanta LX Mother Board/ AGP  
Intel Pentium II CPU, MMX  
Built-In 512 KB Internal Cache  
4.3 GB Hard Disk, Ultra-DMA <10 ms.  
(WDC or IBM) on removable rack  
32 MB SDRAM (10 ns)  
**33 Mips 3 D SVGA w/ 4 MB, DVD Ready**  
3-1/2" Floppy Drive (Sony)  
24 x CD ROM (Toshiba or Sony)  
**33,600 FAX Modem (TI Chipset)**  
YAMAHA Sound OPL 4 w/ AWE  
200 W Speakers  
PS 2 Mouse / PS2 Win95 Key Board  
ATX Deluxe Mid-Tower Case  
OSR2 Windows95 CD/Manual  
**2 Years Parts & Labor Warranty (Hardware only)**  
Intel PII MMX 233 MHz ..... \$1145  
MMX 266 MHz ..... \$1250  
MMX 300 MHz ..... \$1375

### P II Atlanta Enhanced

Intel Atlanta LX Mother Board/ AGP  
Intel Pentium II CPU, MMX  
Built-In 512 KB Internal Cache  
6.4 GB Hard Disk, Ultra-DMA <10 ms.  
(WDC or IBM) on removable rack  
64 MB SDRAM (10 ns)  
Matrox Mystique 3 D II, 4 MB or  
#9 Reality 334 (4MB, AGP)  
3-1/2" Floppy Drive (Sony)  
24 x CD ROM (Toshiba or Sony)  
YAMAHA Sound OPL 4 w/ AWE  
200 W Speakers  
**55,600 FAX Modem/ Voice (TI Chipset)**  
Logitech 3 button PS 2 Mouse  
PS 2 Key Board  
OSR2 Windows95 CD/Manual  
**2 Years Parts & Labor Warranty (Hardware only)**  
Intel PII MMX 233 MHz ..... \$1375  
MMX 266 MHz ..... \$1475  
MMX 300 MHz ..... \$1595  
MMX 333 MHz ..... \$1850

### P II Atlanta Optima

Intel Atlanta LX Mother Board/ AGP  
Intel Pentium II CPU, MMX  
Built-In 512 KB Internal Cache  
8.4 GB Hard Disk, Ultra-DMA <10 ms.  
(WDC or IBM) on removable rack  
96 MB SDRAM (10 ns)  
Matrox Millennium II AGP 4 MB or  
Diamond FireGL 1000 Pro 5MB AGP  
(Open 3 D, GL, Bus Master)  
3-1/2" Floppy Drive (Sony)  
32 x CD ROM (Toshiba or Sony)  
YAMAHA Sound OPL 4 w/ AWE  
200 W Speakers  
**55,600 FAX Modem/ voice (TI Chipset)**  
Logitech 3 button PS 2 Mouse  
PS 2 Key Board  
ATX Deluxe Mid-Tower Case  
OSR2 Windows95 CD/Manual  
**2 Years Parts & Labor Warranty (Hardware only)**  
Intel PII MMX 266 MHz ..... \$1745  
MMX 300 MHz ..... \$1875  
MMX 333 MHz ..... \$2125

# YTG

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DVORAK'S LAST COLUMN • BY JOHN C. DVORAK

# The Annual Jokes Of The Internet Awards

Tasteless And Otherwise

**Once a** year I give out my awards for best jokes found on the Internet—those being actively passed around, no matter how old they are. The winners:

## Best "Attribute" Joke

Last year there was the "Toaster" joke with the premise "If so-and-so made a toaster, it would be..."

This year's winner is the "Virus" joke:

**If you catch any of these you're in real trouble!!!**

**Oprah Winfrey Virus:** Your 2 gigabyte hard drive suddenly shrinks to 80MB, and then slowly expands back to 2 gigabytes.

**Paul Revere Virus:** This revolutionary virus does not horse around. It warns you of impending hard disk attack—once if by LAN, twice if by C:\.

**Politically Correct Virus:** Never calls itself a "virus," but instead refers to itself as an "electronic microorganism."

**Right To Life Virus:** Won't allow you to delete a file, regardless of how old it is. If you attempt to erase a file, it requires you to first see a counselor about possible alternatives.

**Ross Perot Virus:** Activates every component in your system, just before the whole damn thing quits.

**Government Economist Virus:** Nothing works, but all your diagnostic software says everything is fine.

**Congressional Virus #1:** The computer locks up, screens splits erratically with a message appearing on each half blaming the other side for the problem.

**Congressional Virus #2:** Runs every program on the hard drive simultaneously but doesn't allow the user to accomplish anything.

**Airline Virus:** You're in Dallas, but your data is in Singapore.

**AT&T Virus:** Every three minutes it tells you what great service you are getting.

**MCI Virus:** Every three minutes it reminds you that you're paying too much for the AT&T virus.

**Freudian Virus:** Your computer becomes obsessed with marrying its own motherboard.

**PBS Virus:** Your computer stops every few minutes to ask for money...

**Elvis Virus:** Your computer gets fat, slow and lazy, then self-destructs—only to resurface at shopping malls and service stations across rural America.

**Sears Virus:** Your data won't appear unless you buy new cables, power supply and a set of shocks.

**Jimmy Hoffa Virus:** Your programs can never be found again.

**Keurokian Virus:** Helps your computer shut down as an act of mercy.

**Imelda Marcos Virus:** Sings you a song (slightly off key) on boot-up, then subtracts money from your Quicken account and spends it all on expensive shoes it purchases through Prodigy.

**Star Trek Virus:** Invades your system in places where no virus has gone before.

**Health Care Virus:** Tests your system for a day, finds nothing wrong and sends you a bill for \$4,500.

**Chicago Cubs Virus:** Your PC makes frequent mistakes and craves in last in the reviews, but you still love it.

**O.J. Virus:** It claims that it did not, could not and would not delete two of your files and vows to find the virus that did it.

## Best Short Joke

When a man turned 90 years old, his three sons decided to surprise him by getting him a prostitute for his birthday. They left him in a motel room and told him they would be back shortly.

A few minutes later this gorgeous 30-year-old blonde knocks on the door. He opens the door, and she says, "Do you want super sex?"

The man thinks for a moment and replies, "I think I'll have the soup."

## Best Insulting Management Joke

**Fact:** When development engineers go out together on a weekend they talk about football.

**Fact:** When middle managers get together they talk about tennis.

**Fact:** Senior executives talk about golf.

**Conclusion:** The higher you are in management, the smaller your balls are.

## Best Microsoft-Related Joke/Joke Of The Year

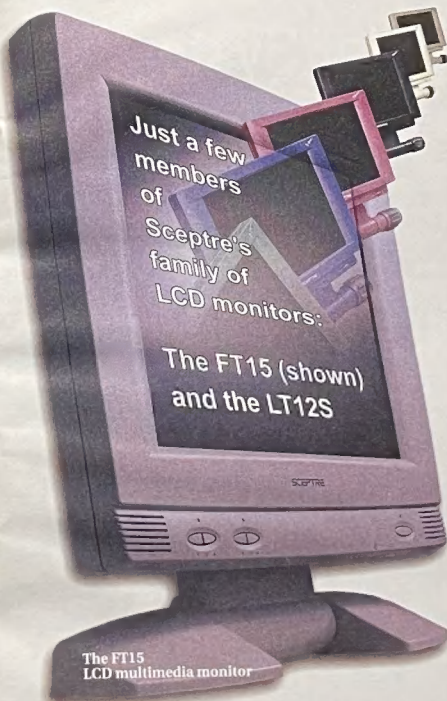
I believe this to be the joke of the year because it has an interesting depth and harsh commentary of media coverage of Microsoft. Whoever worked up this joke is a marvel:

Bill Gates and Steve Jobs were playing a friendly game of Frisbee at the Gates estate on the shore of Lake Washington. At one point, Bill accidentally sends the Frisbee over Steve's head, and the Frisbee lands in the lake. Steve walks out onto the surface of the lake and retrieves the Frisbee.

The next day the newspapers report:  
Gates' Throw Exceeds Expectations  
Apple CEO Unable to Swim ■

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# Been There, Done That!



**The FT15  
LCD multimedia monitor**

1024 x 768 resolution  
14.5" diagonal view  
Amplified stereo speakers  
2.5" thin (without base)  
7.5 lb. light (without base)  
Easily detached base  
(FT15 also available in charcoal gray)

Our current model, the FT15, is Sceptre's 5th generation flat panel monitor. We definitely have been there and done that when it comes to providing LCD flat panel monitor solutions! Read what these people have to say about Sceptre:

"I was confronted with the problem of creating an easy to use, computer friendly workstation for our executives who demonstrate our Britannica Online®... I needed a monitor that was both technically and aesthetically appropriate ... Sceptre's LCD allows us to do everything we need to. The price was within our range as well. It's worked like a champ."

*Larry Merrick, Vice President, MIS  
Encyclopedia Britannica*

"I reviewed a few different flat panel monitors. Sceptre's was the best in terms of dimensions, features, and lack of interference. It was also the most realistically priced. It was a pretty easy choice."

*Richard Hinson, medical research scientist  
Wyeth-Ayerst Research*

To find out how a Sceptre LCD flat panel monitor can provide the solution to your challenge, visit our web site at:

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Video 4MB/ VRAM  
56K bps Modem  
32X IDE CD-ROM Drive  
16-bit Sound Card  
104-key keyboard  
Microsoft Windows 95  
2-button Serial Mouse  
15" Digital Monitor

## TOUCH System

Mini Tower Case  
266Mhz Pentium®II processor  
32MB Ram  
1.44 Floppy Drive  
4.3GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive  
Video 4MB/ VRAM  
56K bps Modem  
32X IDE CD-ROM Drive  
16-bit Sound Card  
Ergonomic 104-key keyboard  
Microsoft Windows 95  
Internet Mouse 3-button  
15" Digital Monitor  
Touch Video Conference Kit

## TOUCH PRO System

Mini Tower Case  
300Mhz Pentium®II processor  
64MB Ram  
6.4GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive  
AGP Video/ 4 MB SGRAM  
56K bps Modem  
32X IDE CD-ROM Drive  
16-bit Sound Card  
Ergonomic 104-key keyboard  
Microsoft Windows 95/ Microsoft  
NT Work Station 4.0  
Internet Mouse 3-button  
17" Digital Monitor  
Touch Video Conference Kit

## Touch Enterprise System

### Server Solutions for the enterprise of all sizes

The Internet, intranets and extranets have changed all the rules. Access to information is a 24x7 proposition. Today, even small and medium size companies need the power, scalability, reliability and fault-tolerance once reserved for big data centers. Supercom's Touch Enterprise Series won't let you and your data down.

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